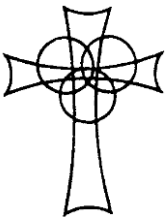




For God
so loved
the world

that he gave
his only Son.

John 3:16



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

4000 – 30th Street

at the intersection of 30th Street and Bunker Hill Road

Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712

The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel, Pastor

Church Office Phone: 301-864-4340

Church Web Site: www.tlcmr.org

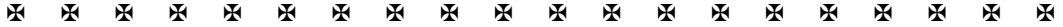


A Member Congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



Lenten Midweek Vespers 2023
Chronicles of God's Amazing Grace

The Third Wednesday of Lent
March 8, 2023



**The Office of Vespers
in the Season of Lent**

Lutheran Service Book Page 229ff

✠ *Jesus, Mercy!* ✠



A Silent Prayer as we gather for worship:

Open, Lord, my mouth to bless Your holy Name; cleanse my heart of any worthless, evil, or distracting thoughts; enlighten my understanding; give me wisdom and love necessary to pray with attention, reverence, and devotion. Father, let my prayer be heard in Your presence, for it is offered through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Words of Welcome

The Congregation rises.

The Opening Hymn

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 428

“Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow”



1	Cross	of	Je - sus,	cross	of	sor - row,
2	Here	the	King of	all	the	a - ges,
3	O	mys -	te - rious	con -	de -	scend - ing!
4	Cross	of	Je - sus,	cross	of	sor - row,

Where the blood of Christ was shed,
Throned in light ere worlds could be,
O a - ban - don - ment sub - lime!
Where the blood of Christ was shed,

Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,
Robed in mor - tal flesh is dy - ing,
Ver - y God Him - self is bear - ing,
Per - fect man on thee did suf - fer,

Per - fect God on thee has bled!
Cru - ci - fied by sin for me.
All the suf - fer - ings of time!
Per - fect God on thee has bled!

Text: William J. Sparrow Simpson, 1860–1952

Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901

Text and tune: Public domain

The Opening Versicles and *Gloria Patri*:

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
- C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.

- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
- C** make haste to help me, O Lord.

- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

The Congregation is seated.

✘ The Psalmody ✘

The Psalm of the Day

Psalm 143; antiphon: verse 5

- P** ^{Ant.}I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all that you have done;
I ponder the work of your hands.
- P** ¹Hear my prayer, O LORD;
give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
- C** ²**Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.**
- P** ³For the enemy has pursued my soul;
he has crushed my life to the ground;
he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.
- C** ⁴**Therefore my spirit faints within me;
my heart within me is appalled.**
- P** ⁵I remember the days of old;
I meditate on all that you have done;
I ponder the work of your hands.
- C** ⁶**I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**
- P** ⁷Answer me quickly, O LORD!
My spirit fails!
Hide not your face from me,
lest I be like those who go down to the pit.
- C** ⁸**Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love,
for in you I trust.
Make me know the way I should go,
for to you I lift up my soul.**
- P** ⁹Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!
I have fled to you for refuge!
- C** ¹⁰**Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God!
Let your good Spirit lead me
on level ground!**

P ¹¹For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!

In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

C ¹²**And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies,
and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul,
for I am your servant.**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P ^{Ant.}I remember the days of old;

I meditate on all that you have done;

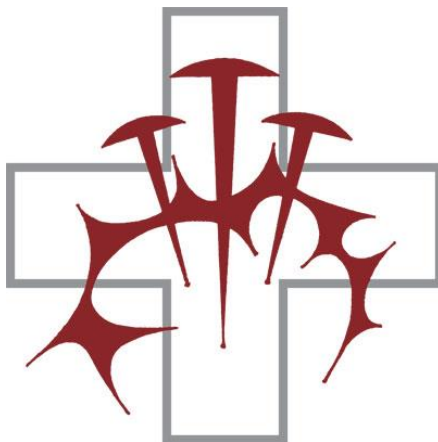
I ponder the work of your hands.

Silence is kept for a time of meditation on the Word

P Let us pray.

By Your grace, O God, grant us the forgiveness of all our sins. And by Your Holy Spirit enlighten our eyes to see both our own sinfulness and the holiness of your Law, that our trust may not stand in the righteousness of works, but in Your grace which You have promised in the One who gave Himself for us to sanctify and cleanse us, Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**



The Office Hymn

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 392

“God Loves Me Dearly”



1 God loves me dear - ly, Grants me sal -
 2 I was in slav - 'ry, Sin, death, and
 3 He sent forth Je - sus, My dear Re -
 4 Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Him - self did
 5 Now I will praise You, O Love E -



va - tion, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.
 dark - ness; God's love was work - ing To make me free.
 deem - er, He sent forth Je - sus And set me free.
 of - fer; Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Paid all I owed.
 ter - nal; Now I will praise You All my life long.

Refrain



There - fore I'll say a - gain: God loves me

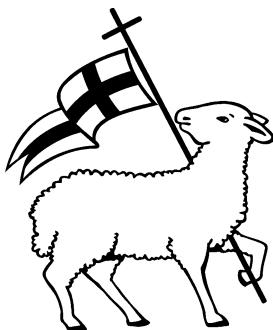


dear - ly, God loves me dear - ly, Loves e - ven me.

Text: August Rische, 1819–1906; tr. composite

Tune: German

Text and tune: Public domain



✂ The Service of the Word ✂

The First Reading

Numbers 21:4-9

P A reading from Numbers, chapter 21.

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom. And the people became impatient on the way. ⁵And the people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this worthless food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. ⁷And the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD and against you. Pray to the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a pole. And if a serpent bit anyone, he would look at the bronze serpent and live.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading

Romans 11:33-36

L A reading from Romans, chapter 11.

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵“Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?”

³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.



The Third Reading

John 3:1-17

L A reading from John, chapter 3.

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ²This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” ³Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. ⁶That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

The Responsory for Lent:

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

P In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

P Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

The Sermon

Chronicles of God's Amazing Grace
Nicodemus: Grace for Those Seeking
Text: John 3:1-17

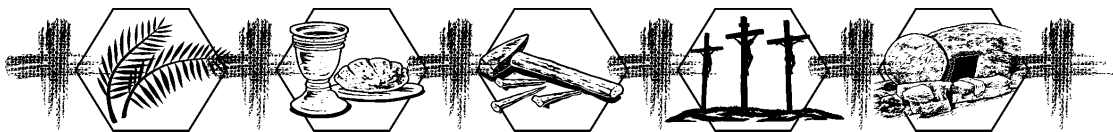
✘ The Canticle ✘

The Congregation rises.

The Canticle at Vespers: *Magnificat*

Luke 1:46b-55; antiphon: 2 Corinthians 6:2c

- P** Behold, now is the favorable time;
C **behold, now is the day of salvation.**
- P** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;
C **for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.**
- P** For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
C **For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;**
- P** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
C **He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.**
- P** He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
C **He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.**
- P** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P** Behold, now is the favorable time;
C **behold, now is the day of salvation.**



✠ The Prayers ✠

The *Kyrie Eleison*:

P O Lord,
C have mercy.

P O Christ,
C have mercy.

P O Lord,
C have mercy.

The Lord's Prayer:

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 and ever. Amen.

The Salutation and Collects:

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

The Collect for the Second Week in Lent:

- P** O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

The Collect for the Lenten Season:

- P** Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

Other Prayers and Intercessions may be offered.

The Collect of Intercession:

- P** Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give Your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and be present with all, for Your love's sake.
- C** **Amen.**

The Collect for Peace:

- P** O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

The Benedicamus and Blessing:

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

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

C Amen.

The Hymn to Depart

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 886

“The Day Thou Gavest”

1 The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended,
 2 We thank Thee that Thy Church, un-sleeping
 3 As o'er each con-tinent and is-land
 4 The sun, that bids us rest, is waking
 5 So be it, Lord! Thy throne shall never,
 The dark-ness falls at Thy be-hest;
 While earth rolls on-ward in-to light,
 The dawn leads on-an-oth-er day,
 Thy saints be-neath the west-ern skies,
 Like earth's proud em-pires, pass a-way;
 To Thee our morn-ing hymns as-cend-ed,
 Through all the world her watch is keep-ing,
 The voice of prayer is nev-er si-lent,
 And hour by hour, as day is break-ing,
 Thy king-dom stands and grows for-ev-er,
 Thy praise shall sanc-ti-fy our rest.
 And nev-er rests by day or night.
 Nor dies the strain of praise a-way.
 Fresh hymns of thank-ful praise a-rise.
 Till all Thy crea-tures own Thy sway.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–93, alt.

Tune: Clement C. Scholefield, 1839–1904

Text and tune: Public domain

The Silent Worship

The Parish Announcements

The Dismissal:

P Let us go in peace.

C **In the Name of the Lord. Amen.**

✠ ✠

Acknowledgments

Vespers from Lutheran Service Book

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✠ ✠



**The Sacred Season of Lent
2023**

*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!*

Lutheran Service Book Hymn # 744:1

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the writing of what some may call “America’s Favorite Hymn”—*Amazing Grace*. What is interesting about this statement is that America can only claim half of the hymn. The tune that this text has been wedded came from a nineteenth century American collection of hymns known as the *Columbian Harmony*, published almost 50 years after the words of the hymn appeared in 1773—in England, three years before our nation’s independence.

The author of the hymn was John Newton: an Englishman, former dissolute slave ship captain, convert to Christianity, and Anglican priest. He wrote the hymn for his congregation in Olney, England where it was first sung on New Year’s Day, 1773. The text grew out of

Newton's sermon for that day on "Faith's Review and Expectation" from the text 1 Chronicles 17:16-17, where King David says: "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that You have brought me thus far?" The hymn is very much a reflection not only of this text, but also of the life and conversion of the believer who wrote these words.

It is a hymn that is well known and loved by many believers who have also come to see themselves in these words, laying claim to the amazing love and mercy of God who gives them forgiveness, life, and salvation.

What is interesting though about this hymn is that because of the faith of its author and the faith which countless Christians have sung these words, the Source of this Amazing Grace has always been thought to be implied in the hymn, even though the words in it never directly reveal it, not even mentioning the person and work of the Savior, Jesus Christ. Perhaps it is for this reason that the folksinger, Joan Baez, who sang the song often in the 1960s, could say: "I never thought of it as a Christian song...I don't think that anyone at the time thought of it as a religious song".

The Season of Lent gives us the opportunity to contemplate anew not just the words of this great hymn but also to view again the very Source of the amazing grace of which we sing—the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ the Savior, the One who in mercy has shown us the grace of God to sinners like you and me, restoring to us the life which sin lost us and assuring us that we belong to our loving God both now and forever.

Join us this Lent as we see in the lives of those we meet in the pages of Scripture how God showed his amazing grace to them and changed their lives, and how our gracious God abundantly and richly does the same for us each day of our lives.



Lenten Worship at Trinity – 2023

Chronicles of God's Amazing Grace

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 PM

Sunday Mornings at 9:30 AM

The Third Sunday in Lent – March 12, 2023

Divine Service of Word and Sacrament

The Woman at the Well: Grace for the Thirsting – John 4

The Fourth Wednesday of Lent – March 15, 2023

Lenten Vespers

The Prodigal Son: Grace for the Lost – Luke 15:11-32

The Fourth Sunday in Lent – March 19, 2023
Divine Service of Word and Sacrament
The Blind Man: Grace for the Blind – John 9

The Fifth Wednesday of Lent – March 22, 2023
Lenten Vespers
Peter: Grace for the Fearful – Luke 22:54-62 & John 21:15-19

The Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 26, 2023
Divine Service of Word and Sacrament
Lazarus, Martha, & Mary: Grace for the Sorrowful – John 11

The Sixth Wednesday of Lent – March 29, 2023
Lenten Vespers
Paul: Grace for the Wretched – 1 Timothy 1:12-17



The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday – April 2, 2023
The Liturgy of Palm Sunday with the Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem, the Solemn Reading of the Passion according to Saint Matthew, and the celebration of Holy Communion
The Crowd: Grace for the Loveless – Matthew 27:15-26

Holy (Maundy) Thursday – April 6, 2023
The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday with Confession and Absolution, the celebration of Holy Communion on the anniversary of its institution, and the Solemn Preparation of the Church for Good Friday
A Meal of Grace – Matthew 26:17-30

Good Friday – April 7, 2023
The Liturgy of Good Friday with the Adoration of the Cross, the Solemn Reading of the Passion according to Saint John, and the Solemn Prayers for the Church and the World
Coup de Grace – John 19:31-37

The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day – April 9, 2023
The Festival Divine Service with Hymns, Special Music, the Renewal of Baptismal Vows, and the celebration of Holy Communion
Amazing Grace: Now and Forever – Colossians 3:1-4

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
4000 – 30th Street
at the intersection of 30th Street and Bunker Hill Road
Mount Rainier, Maryland 20712

Sunday Mornings:
Adult Bible Study – 8:30 AM
Worship with Holy Communion – 9:30 AM

Midweeks in Lent:
Lenten Vespers
Wednesday Evenings – 7:00 PM

*Worship Services are livestreamed on Facebook Live
For more information, please visit the church website.*

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The Reverend Peter A. Schiebel, Pastor



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