



## IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER

Rev. Marty Marks  
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511 Russell Road  
DeKalb, IL 60115

March 29, 2023  
11am & 7:00 p.m. in-person  
& Facebook Live

### Midweek Lenten Service 5

Welcome to our Amazing Grace series for Lent. In this 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, cross of Christ changes us all from enemy to friend.

♪ Opening Hymn: "O Dearest Jesus, what law hast thou broken?" --# 439 vs. 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.      Text: Public domain

- 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.

The 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.
- 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. Amen.
- C** 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.

## The Prayer of the Day

**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. Amen:

## The Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 53:1-6*

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 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. 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. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 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. 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** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## The Epistle Reading

*1 Timothy 12:1-17*

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 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. 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. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## The Gospel Reading

*Mark 2: 13-17*

He went out again beside the sea, and all the crowd was coming to him, and he was teaching them. 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. 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. 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?" 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.

## ♪ Sermon Hymn: "Chief of Sinner though I be "

*--LSB #611 vs. 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 ”

Rev. Marty Marks

## Prayers

**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.**

**P** Amen.

## ♪ Closing Hymn: “Amazing Grace”

---LSB #744

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.**
2. **'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!**
3. **Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

## Benediction/ Silent Prayers/ Announcements/ Postlude

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Participants – March 29, 2023

**Altar Guild:** Carolyn McQuillan

11:00 a.m.

7:00 p.m.

**Musicians**

Linda Conrad

Linda Conrad

**Pastor**

Rev. Marty Marks

Rev. Marty Marks

**Lay Reader (Paul)**

Tom Sawyer

**Acolyte**

Darlene Hillman

Russ Coulombe