***Mid-week Lenten Service***

**1st Wednesday of Lent February 24, 2021**

**Greeting**

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.

**Hymn** *“Grace Greater than Our Sin”*

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!

Yonder on Calvary’s mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

*Refrain:*

*Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;*

*grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!*

Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss;

Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, points to the refuge, the mighty cross *[Refrain]*

Dark is the stain that we cannot hide. What can avail to wash it away?

Look! There is flowing a crimson tide, brighter than snow you may be today. *[Refrain]*

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, freely bestowed on all who believe!

You that are longing to see his face, will you this moment his grace receive? *[Refrain]*

**Prayer of Confession**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You**

**with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways,**

**to the glory of Your name. Amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness**

**Chorus of Thanks** *“Grace Greater than Our Sin”*

*Grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;*

*grace, grace, God’s grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!*

**Psalter** *Psalm 91*

Living in the Most High’s shelter, camping in the Almighty’sshade, **2**I say to the Lord,

“You are my refuge, my stronghold! You are my God—the one I trust!” **3**God will save you

from the hunter’s trap and from deadly sickness. **4**God will protect you with his pinions;

you’ll find refuge under his wings. His faithfulness is a protective shield. **5**Don’t be afraid

of terrors at night, arrows that fly in daylight, **6**or sickness that prowls in the dark,

destruction that ravages at noontime. **7**Even if one thousand people fall dead next to you,

ten thousand right beside you—it won’t happen to you. **8**Just look with your eyes,

and you will see the wicked punished. **9**Because you’ve made the Lord my refuge,

the Most High, your place of residence—**10** no evil will happen to you;

no disease will come close to your tent. **11**Because he will order his messengers to help you,

to protect you wherever you go. **12**They will carry you with their own hands

so you don’t bruise your foot on a stone. **13**You’ll march on top of lions and vipers;

you’ll trample young lions and serpents underfoot. **14**God says, “Because you are devoted to me,

I’ll rescue you. I’ll protect you because you know my name. **15**Whenever you cry out to me,

I’ll answer. I’ll be with you in troubling times. I’ll save you and glorify you.

**16**I’ll fill you full with old age. I’ll show you my salvation.”

**Scripture Lesson** *St. Matthew 20:29-34*

**29**As Jesus and his disciples were going out of Jericho a large crowd followed him.

**30**When two blind men sitting along the road heard that Jesus was passing by, they shouted,

“Show us mercy, Lord, Son of David!” **31**Now the crowd scolded them and told them to be quiet.

But they shouted even louder, “Show us mercy, Lord, Son of David!” **32**Jesus stopped in his tracks

and called to them. “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked. **33**“Lord, we want to see,”

they replied. **34**Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes.

Immediately they were able to see, and they followed him.

**Reflections on Amazing Grace**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Merciful God, we your children humbly thank You for all of Your goodness.**

**We thank You for blessing us in all the ways that You do. Above all,**

**we thank You for saving and redeeming us through Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ,**

**and for the grace and hope that is ours through Him. We ask that You would heighten**

**our awareness of Your grace that we would be ever more thankful,**

**leading us to praise You with our whole being, and serve You all our days.**

**We pray this through our Savior, Jesus Christ, the embodiment of Your grace. Amen.**

**Hymn** *“And Can It Be That I Should Gain”*

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior’s blood!

Died he for me? who caused his pain! For me? who him to death pursued?

Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

Amazing love! How can it be that thou, my God, shouldst die for me?

He left his Father’s throne above (so free, so infinite his grace!),

emptied himself of all but love, and bled for Adam’s helpless race.

‘Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!

‘Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!

Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature’s night;

Thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light;

My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

My chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed Thee.

No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine;

alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,

Bold I approach th’ eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

Bold I approach th’ eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ my own.

**Benediction**

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*We are glad that you are with us tonight.*

*Please be reminded that each Wednesday during this season of Lent*

*we will gather, via Zoom, at 7 PM.*

*Our theme for Lent is “Amazing Grace.”*