

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, North Fond du Lac
Order of Worship: September 24/26/27, 2020 (Pentecost 17)

Hymn: 379

Amazing Grace - How Sweet the Sound

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.

The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

Invocation and Confession of Sins *(Please stand.)*

M: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees

C: **Then I will keep them to the end.**

(Psalm 119:33)

M: Direct me in the path of your commands,

C: **For there I find delight.**

(Psalm 119:35)

M: How I long for your precepts!

C: **Preserve my life in your righteousness.**

(Psalm 119:40)

M: Let us confess our sins to our Holy God.

C: **Forgive us, Holy Father, for our offenses against you and for what we think, do, and say to cause suffering in this world through our many sins. Pardon our unkind, unclean, and impatient words; our thoughtless failures to help or encourage others; our selfish and unloving deeds; our insensitivity toward those who are hurting; and our stubborn rebellion against the perfect purity of your moral standards. We admit our sins and the eternal punishment we deserve because of them, and ask you to have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.**

M:God's flawless Word tells us, "He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth." (*Isaiah 25:8*) He has kept his promise to do this through the perfect life and sacrificial death of his Son, Jesus Christ. Believe it when the Savior proclaims to you through his called servant, "Your sins are forgiven!" (*Luke 7:48*)

Response: 399 v. 1

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory; great things he has done!
He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,
Who yielded his life an atonement for sin
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!
Oh, come to the Father through Jesus the Son
And give him the glory -- great things he has done!

Prayer of the Day (*unison*)

Lord God, you are compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love. Fill us with the peace of your forgiveness so that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

(Please be seated.)

First Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. ¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Epistle Lesson: Romans 14:5-9

One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷ For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. ⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

Verse of the Day: *(Pastor)*

Alleluia. Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Alleluia! *(Romans 15:4)*

Response: 250 v. 2

From All that Dwell Below the Skies

Eternal are your mercies, Lord; Eternal is your glorious Word.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your praise shall sound from shore to shore

Till suns shall rise and set no more.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Please stand.)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35

Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?" ²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ "The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. ²⁹ "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' ³⁰ "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they

were greatly distressed and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' ³⁴ In anger his master turned him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. ³⁵ "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart."

Creed: *Luther's Explanation of the 3rd Article of the Apostles' Creed*

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers. On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

Hymn: 339 v. 1, 2, 4

Today Your Mercy Calls Us

Today your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been,
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Today your gate is open, And all who enter in
Shall find a Father's welcome And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv'n,
A future grace be promised: A glorious crown in heav'n.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without you When heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

Sermon

"Forgive our sins as we forgive," You taught us, Lord, to pray,
But you alone can grant us grace To live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless The unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and will not let Old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals The truth we dimly knew:
What trivial debts are owed to us; How great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls And bid resentment cease;
Then, bound to all in bonds of love Our lives will spread your peace.

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer

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.

Closing Prayer

M:Almighty God, we thank you for the gift of your Holy Word. May it always be a lantern to our feet, a light for our paths, and strength to our lives. Guide us by your grace and use us to love and serve all people by the power of the Spirit and in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

M:Teach our hearts to praise you for your saving love.

C: **Lead us to fear, love, and trust in you above all things.**

M:The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

(Numbers 6:24)

C: **Amen.**

Hymn: 326 v. 1-2

May the Grace of Christ Our Savior

May the grace of Christ our Savior And the Father's boundless love
With the Holy Spirit's favor Rest upon us from above.

So may we abide in union With each other and the Lord,
Gathered here in blest communion By the power of his Word.

Hymns reprinted from *Christian Worship*, © 1993, Northwestern Publishing House
All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License A-71596