A Look at Original Sin.

AS WE GATHER

Today pastor preaches on "How Big is my Problem? Am I Really that Bad? (A Look at Original Sin) Paul, the greatest preacher besides Jesus who ever lived seems to think he had it bad in the sin department. He laments, "O wretched man that I am" and greatly regretted his days as a "blasphemer" and even called himself the "Chief of Sinners" on which is based the hymn of that same title, LSB 611. He further confessed the truth about his sinful condition, "For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it." (Romans 7:18-20).

Fortunately, God has not left us in our sinful condition without hope. Paul finishes his lament with a happy ending, sharing about the grace and forgiveness of God for sin, paid for on the cross, "Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"
OPENING SONG

AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE)  Tomlin

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I'm found,
Was blind but now I see.

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

CHORUS  My chains are gone. I've been set free,
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains,
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures. CHORUS X2

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.

INVOCATION

Pastor:  In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People:  Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor:  As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in Him.
People:  We have been buried with Christ in Baptism and raised with Him through faith in the awesome power of God.
Pastor:  As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in Him.
People:  We were once dead in our trespasses. God made us alive together with Christ.
Pastor:  As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in Him.
People: The debt of our sins has been paid by the sacrifice of Jesus.
Pastor: As you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in Him.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Gathered together as God’s people in Christ, rooted and established in the faith, we confess our sins to God and to one another.

A time of silence is observed.

Pastor: We have sinned against You, O God, in thought, word, and deed.
People: Forgive us and renew us, O Lord.
Pastor: We have not loved You with our whole heart.
People: Forgive us and renew us, O Lord.
Pastor: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
People: Forgive us and renew us, O Lord.
Pastor: We owe You a debt of sin that none can pay.
People: Forgive us and renew us, O Lord.
Pastor: When we were dead in our trespasses, God blotted out our debt of sin, nailing it to the cross. Having forgiven all of our trespasses, God has made us alive together with Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 3:14-21

So the L ORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you
return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Romans 5:12-19

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned—for before the law was given, sin was in the world But sin is not taken into account when there is no law. Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come. But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! Consequently, just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for the Holy Gospel.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 3:1-7

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you
are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”
In reply Jesus declared, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”
“How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!”
Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SONG OF THE DAY “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” LSB 611

SERMON “Big and Bigger” Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Romans 5:12-19

APOSTLES’ CREED Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.
OFFERING

You are salt for the earth, O people:
All: Salt for the Kingdom of God!

Share the flavor of life, O people:
All: Life in the Kingdom of God!

Chorus (All): Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,
Bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
Bring forth the Kingdom of justice,
Bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people:
All: Light for the City of God!

Shine so holy and bright, O people:
All: Shine for the Kingdom of God!  CHORUS

You are a seed of the Word, O people:
All: Bring forth the Kingdom of God!

Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice,
All: Grow in the Kingdom of God!  CHORUS

We are a blest and a pilgrim people:
All: Bound for the Kingdom of God!

Love our journey and love our homeland:
All: Love is the Kingdom of God!  CHORUS

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.
Pastor: The Lord be with you.  
People: And also with you.  
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  
People: We lift them to the Lord.  
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD  

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in
remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My * blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

**LORD’S PRAYER**  
*Matthew 6:9–13*  
*Text found in the back of the Hymnal.*

**FREELY FREELY**

God forgave my sin in Jesus’ name  
I’ve been born again in Jesus’ name  
And in Jesus’ name I come to you  
To share His love as He told me to

**CHORUS:** He said freely freely  
You have received  
Freely freely give  
Go in My name  
And because you believe  
Others will know that I live

All pow’r is giv’n in Jesus’ name  
In earth and heav’n in Jesus’ name  
And in Jesus’ name I come to you  
To share His pow’r as He told me to **CHORUS**
HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything
No gifts no power no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from His reward
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

THERE IS A REDEEMER

There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God’s own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names,
precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.

When I stand in glory I will see his face,
There I’ll serve my King forever, in that holy place.
Thank you, oh, my Father, for giving us your Son,
And leaving your Spirit ‘til the work on earth is done.

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: You have been buried and raised with Christ in Baptism. Your sins have been forgiven by the cross of Jesus. Your debt has been paid in full. Alive in Christ, go out into the world asking, seeking, knocking.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and * give you peace. Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.
CLOSING SONG

YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH

Maher

Great is Your faithfulness, O God;
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.
You lead us by still waters into mercy
And nothing can keep us apart.

CHORUS: So, remember Your people, Remember Your children,
Remember Your promise O God.
Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough, for me.

Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob;
You use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song of Your salvation,
And all Your people sing along. CHORUS

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough, for me.

Remember Your people, Remember Your children,
Remember Your promise O God.
Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, for me.

Yeah, Your grace is enough; Heaven reaches out to us.
Your grace is enough for me.
God, I sing: Your grace is enough; I'm covered in Your love.
Your grace is enough for me, for me.

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS
Adam & Eve
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT: Pastor John Larson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES: Michael Zehnder
ORGAN ASSISTANT: Diana Gaide
AGAPE: Rose Berger, Bri Fort, Lisa O’Neal, Ken Price, Bob Shiflet

ELDER: Norm Finfrock
8:00
10:00

LECTOR: Clyde Wiggins
8:00
10:00

ACOLYTE: Esther Langness
8:00
10:00

USHERS: Hank Peepgrass, Members of the Congregation
8:00
10:00

SERVER: Les Young
10:00

ALTAR GUILD: Charmain Rohde, Sharon Seible, Deb Shiflet

FLOWERS: Nancy Lugton, in honor of Charles & Marjorie Lugton’s (parents) and Norman Kracke’s (uncle) birthdays

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