

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

January 30 and 31, 2021

5 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. Sunday



FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

The God Whose Name is Grace

AS WE GATHER (Based on Ephesians 2:1-10)

Just how **BAD** are you really? A lot of people subscribe to the false notion that "we just do our best and God will make up the rest." That is actually the complete opposite of what the Bible has to say about your true nature. Paul doesn't mince words about how bad you really are by nature and by birth. He says you were **DEAD** in transgressions and sins. A dead person can accomplish no good thing - that's how bad your real situation is. You were born **DEAD** to God's ways. Dare you hear some more truth? Paul says you were by nature **OBJECTS OF WRATH** and that you are saved **NOT FROM YOURSELVES**. Paul uses a number of opposites to highlight the magnificence and mercy of what it means to be "saved by grace." Bottom line: it is an undeserved **GIFT**. That's why we weekly join at God's house to praise His Name. We don't get what we deserve: God's wrath. Instead, we get what we don't deserve: God's mercy, love and forgiveness, flowing from the cross of Jesus.

✧ PREPARATION ✧

Prelude

“Poco Vivace”

Hermann Schroeder

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“By Grace I’m Saved”
Verses 1-3

LSB 566



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it



Has Scrip-ture ev - er false-hood taught? No! Then this word must
Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.

Tune and text: Public domain

Invocation

Confession *(Based on Ephesians 2:1-10)*

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Lord, we confess the truth about ourselves as found in scripture. By nature we were born "dead in transgressions and sins." We have "followed the ways of this world" and the ways of "the ruler of the kingdom of this world." We have wrongly followed "the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient." Far from loving you with our whole heart, we are guilty of "gratifying the cravings of our sinful**

nature, following its desires and thoughts." We are without excuse. But your Word tells us you are "rich in mercy" and "rich in love." For the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ who died on our behalf we ask you forgive our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Absolution (*Based on Ephesians 2:1-10*)

Pastor: Even though God's Word tells us the shocking truth about our sinful condition, calling us "by nature objects of wrath," it also tells us great Good News: "God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions." Upon this, your confession, God assures you that "By GRACE you have been saved, through faith -- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works so that no one can boast." Because of His "great love" for you He has "raised you up with Christ and seated you with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus." Rejoice that He has "shown you the incomparable riches of His grace, expressed in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus."

People: **Amen! Thanks be to God for His GIFT of GRACE!**

✘ **WORD** ✘

Spoken Kyrie (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: **Amen.**

Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10

(We were DEAD in transgressions and sins...by nature OBJECTS OF WRATH...saved NOT from yourselves...Paul uses opposites to explain the magnitude and mercy of GRACE.)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive

with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

(People are amazed at Jesus' authority over unclean spirits.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st Chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are--the Holy One of God!"

"Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek.

The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching--and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Tune and text: Public domain

Sermon "The God Whose Name is Grace"

Pastor John Larson
 TEXT: Ephesians 2:1-10

Catechism – Second Article – GRACE

Pastor: We confess the Second Article of the Apostles' Creed from Luther's Small Catechism. We are reminded by it that our salvation is totally a work of GRACE because by nature we were lost and condemned, in slavery to sin and under the power of the devil.

People: **I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

People **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,**

who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy...

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Offering *Offerings will be collected at the back, in the Narthex.*

✠ 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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

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.**

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

People: **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.**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

"God Loves Me Dearly "

LSB 392

Verses 1-4



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



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.



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



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

Tune and text: Public domain

"Amazing Grace " (Organ)

Gordon Young

General Communion Blessing

Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**



1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose Thee; That, I know, could

2 It was grace in Christ that called me, Taught my dark - ened

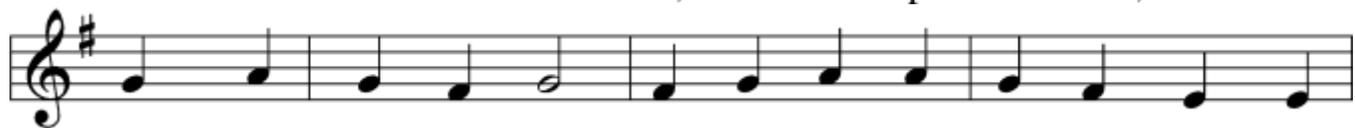
△ 3 Praise the God of all cre - a - tion; Praise the Fa - ther's



nev - er be; For this heart would still re - fuse Thee Had Thy

heart and mind; Else the world had yet en - thrall'd me, To Thy

bound - less love. Praise the Lamb, our ex - pi - a - tion, Priest and



grace not cho - sen me. Thou hast from the sin that stained me

heav'n - ly glo - ries blind. Now I wor - ship none a - bove Thee;

King en - throned a - bove. Praise the Spir - it of sal - va - tion,



Washed and cleansed and set me free And un - to this

For Thy grace a - lone I thirst, Know - ing well that,

Him by whom our spir - its live. Un - di - vid - ed



end or - dained me, That I ev - er live to Thee.

if I love Thee, Thou, O Lord, didst love me first.

ad - o - ra - tion To the great Je - ho - vah give.

Text and tune: Public domain

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

(and Row by Row Dismissal)

"Hornpipe"

G.F. Handel

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Pastor John Larson
Michael Zehnder