

March 17, 2021

Welcome

Table Grace

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Candle Lighting Song

"Amazing Grace
(My Chains are Gone)"

VERSE 1

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.

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.

VERSE 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.

CHORUS

VERSE 3

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

Prayer

God of all creation, help us to see the world you have made, the world you mean to save. Show us the breadth of your love! Amen.



Scripture

John 3:14-21

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

Poem

"The Swan" p. 331 of "Mary Oliver's Devotions"

Did you too see it, drifting, all night, on the black river?
Did you see it in the morning, rising into the silvery air –
An armful of white blossoms,
A perfect commotion of silk and linen as it leaned
into the bondage of its wings; a snowbank, a bank of lilies,
Biting the air with its black beak?
Did you hear it, fluting and whistling
A shrill dark music – like the rain pelting the trees – like a
waterfall
Knifing down the black ledges?
And did you see it, finally, just under the clouds –
A white cross Streaming across the sky, its feet
Like black leaves, its wings Like the stretching light of the
river?
And did you feel it, in your heart, how it pertained to
everything?
And have you too finally figured out what beauty is for?
And have you changed your life?

Table Conversation

Song

ELW #779 "Amazing Grace" v1, 2 & 3

VERSE 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.

VERSE 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!

VERSE 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.

Best Part of Your Week

Lord's Prayer

from New Zealand Prayer Book

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of s all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through
the universe!
They way of your justice be followed by the
peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created
beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another,
forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing,
strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that
is love, now and for ever. Amen

Blessing



**GOD DID NOT SEND THE SON
INTO THE WORLD
TO CONDEMN THE WORLD,
BUT IN ORDER
THAT THE WORLD MIGHT BE
SAVED THROUGH HIM.**

+ JOHN 3:17