

**Amazing Grace Lutheran Church**  
**Sunday, March 19, 2023**  
**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**Centering Music:** Be Thou My Vision    arr. Dan Chadburn  
Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone    arr. Lorie Line

**Welcome**

*In Lent, we learn to follow Christ, who gives us new life.*

**Call to Worship (Psalm 23)**

The Lord is my shepherd;

**I shall not be in want.**

The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures

**And leads me beside still waters.**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil.

**For you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

**You anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall pursue me all the days of my life,

**I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever!**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**

**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**

**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**

**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**

**we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**

**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**

**Amen.**

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
 so that all may receive life.  
 This promise is for you!  
 God embraces you with divine mercy,  
 † forgives you in Christ's name,  
 and revives you in the Spirit's power.  
**Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn: God, Whose Almighty Word ELW 673

### God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard  
 2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,  
 3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,  
 4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the  
 heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -  
 speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the  
 Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.  
 lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.  
 lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.  
 full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

## Greeting

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

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

Lord, have mer - cy.

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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

**Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## First Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Gospel Acclamation



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## Gospel Reading: John 9:1-41

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup>The religious leaders did not believe that he had been blind and had received his

sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the religious leaders; for they had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup>They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup>He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Message**

**Pastor Tim Maybee**

**Hymn of the Day: Be Thou My Vision**

**ELW 793**

**Confession of Faith**

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

**We are not alone,**

**we live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,**

**who has come in Jesus,**

the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials and empower citizens to engage in community action. Encourage us to act with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve, especially those we name before you now... Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community, especially Neighbors Inc. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **Offering**

*AGLC gives in the style of our Tanzanian partners. You may place any gift in the basket as you come forward for communion. If you don't have a physical gift to share, you are encouraged to dip your hand in the basket as a reminder that God uses you to do God's work in the world.*

## **Offering Song: Now is the Time of Grace** *(Insert)*

**ACS 918**

*Introduction – refrain one time through*

*Congregation enters and sings the refrain in a round. Right (Pulpit) side is part 1,*

*Left (Piano) side is part 2*

*Each verse will be sung in unison, followed by the refrain sung as a round.*

## **Offering Prayer:**

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**Amen.**

## **Holy Communion**

## **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

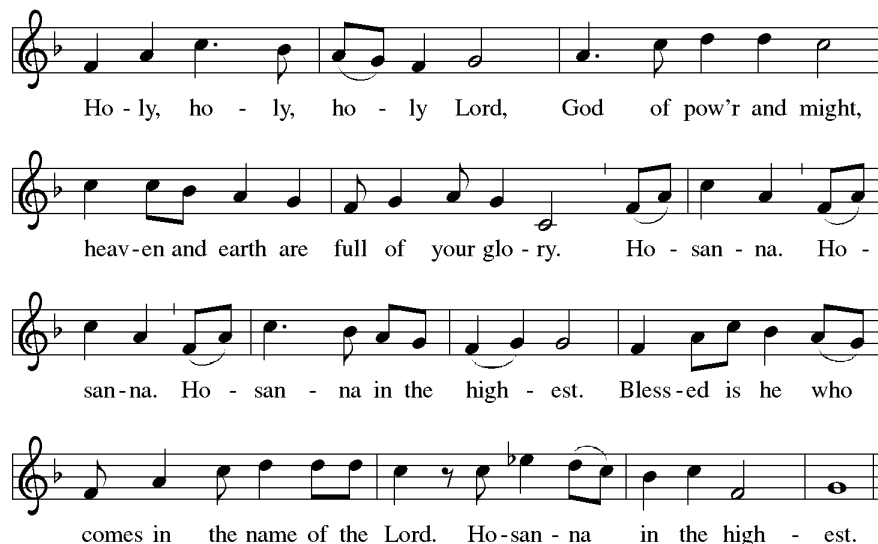
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise....  
.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## Jesus' Invitation

### Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

### Call to the Table

*Amazing Grace Lutheran Church practices open communion. Whether you are a member of AGLC or not, you are invited to the table that is set by Christ for you.*

Come and receive the Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

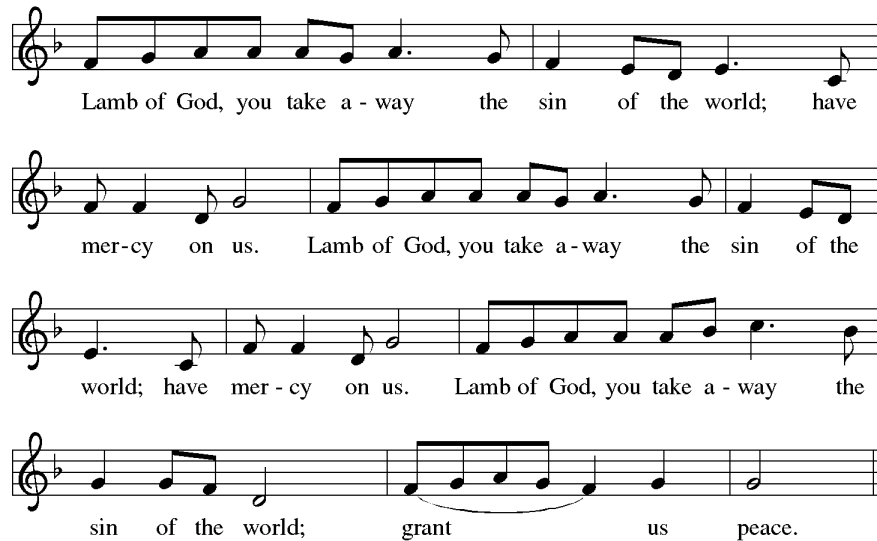
### Distribution

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The wine used in worship is alcohol-free. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.*

## Communion Hymn(s):





Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**Lead Me, Guide Me**  
**Amazing Grace**  
**Lamb of God**

**ELW 768**  
**ELW 776**  
**ELW 336**

**Prayer after Communion**

Embodied God,  
**at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.**  
**Amen.**

**Announcements**

**Benediction**

God, the giver of love,  
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth  
bless you in this Lenten journey.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song: Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness ELW 843**

# Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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## Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude:** Lead, Me Lord

arr. Robert W. Thygerson