

Amazing Grace

Lent Worship Series

Week 1: Isaiah of Babylon

Order of Service

Opening Hymn #420 Christ, the Life of All the Living
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u37KT8jtWWw>

And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." Isaiah 6:7

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe, Who, thyself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe: Through thy sufferings, death, and merit I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on the bonds and stripes, a cruel rod; Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee, O thou sinless Son of God! Thus, didst thou my soul deliver from the bonds of sin forever. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou hast suffered great affliction and hast borne it patiently, even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me; Thou didst choose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented. Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Call to Worship ... Psalm 32:1-5

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

P For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

P I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

C I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Confession and Absolution

P As we come together to worship in the presence of God, we confess our sins and seek God's grace and mercy. Isaiah was given a vision of God enthroned in the temple and the prophet was frightened by what he saw. He knew that he was a sinner in the presence of the holy God of Israel. With the prophet, we acknowledge and confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

C Almighty God, we know that we are sinners. We do not obey your holy law. We follow our sinful desires and listen to the temptations of the world around us. The prophet confessed that he was unclean. We too are unclean. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

P An angel touched the prophet's lips with a coal from the altar of sacrifice and said, "Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." Isaiah's guilt was taken away. His sins were forgiven. As God showed grace to the prophet, he has shown his grace to us through Jesus' atoning death. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Psalm 32:5)

P The prophet Isaiah was forgiven and sent out to proclaim the message of God's judgment and grace. We too are forgiven and sent out to serve and to witness in Jesus' name. With the prophet, we answer God's call:

C Here I am! Send me!

Prayer of the Day holy wounds I find, Ev'ry hour that I am feeling pains of body and of mind. Should some evil thought within tempt my treach'rous heart to sin, Show the peril, and from sinning keep me from its first beginning.

Ev'ry wound that pains or grieves me by your wounds, Lord, is made whole; When I'm faint, your cross revives me, granting new life to my soul. Yes, your comfort renders sweet ev'ry bitter cup I meet; For your all-atoning passion has procured my soul's salvation.

Old Testament Reading ... Isaiah 6:1-8

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ² Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. ³ And they were calling to one another:

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."

⁴ At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. ⁵ "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." ⁶ Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷ With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Epistle Reading ... Romans 10:14-17

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"^[a]

¹⁶ But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?"^[b] ¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

Gospel Reading ... Matthew 9:35-38

⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. ³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Hail, thou once despised Jesus! Hail, thou Galilean King! Thou didst suffer to release us; thou didst free salvation bring. Hail, thou universal Savior, bearer of our sin and shame! By thy merit we find favor; life is given through thy name.

Paschal Lamb, by God appointed, all our sins on thee were laid; By almighty love anointed, thou hast full atonement made. All thy people are forgiven through the virtue of thy blood; Opened is the gate of heaven, reconciled are we with God.

Sermon

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.

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

The Lord has promised good to me, his Word my hope secures; He will my Shield and Portion be, as long as life endures.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Prayers

P Almighty God, your grace is the favor you show to undeserving sinners. Just as you showed grace to the prophet Isaiah and forgave his sins, you have forgiven us for the sake of Jesus our Savior. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, during this season of Lent, a time of repentance, we remember that Jesus was sacrificed for our sins on the altar of the cross. As Isaiah's sins were burned away with a coal from the temple altar, our sins are washed away in Jesus' blood. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering illness, sorrow and grief. Lead us by your Spirit to comfort them with the promises of your holy Word and to bring help to them in their time of need. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, Isaiah was quick to answer your call. You sent him out with the message of your power and love. You asked, "Whom shall I send?" Bless the pastors, teachers, missionaries and others who answered your call and said, "Here I am. Send me." Watch over them and protect them as they proclaim the Gospel of salvation. By the power of your Spirit, extend your kingdom through the preaching of the good news. Gracious Lord,

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, you have forgiven our sins. Now, by the power of your Spirit, make us bold witnesses for our Savior. You ask, "Whom shall I send?" Lead us to answer with joy, "Here I am! Send me!"

C Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

P Amen.

P "Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

C Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

Hark, the voice of Jesus, crying, “Who will go and work today? Fields are white and harvests waiting—who will bear the sheaves away?” Loud and long the Master calleth; rich reward he offers thee. Who will answer, gladly saying, “Here am I, send me, send me?”

Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do,” While the multitudes are dying and the Master calls for you. Take the task he gives you gladly, let his work your pleasure be; Answer quickly when he calleth, “Here am I, send me, send me!”

Let us Pray as the Father has taught us :

Lord’s Prayer

Blessing

Now may the Lord Bless You and Keep You

May the Lord make is Face to Shine on you and Be Gracious to you!

May the Lord Look on you with Favor and Give you his Peace!

Closing Hymn # 422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gLXTVlfQOZE>