

# ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP of GOD

February 10, 2019 Season of Epiphany



# Preparation for Worship

Please prepare your heart for worship and silence your mobile devices.

Our Hymn of Praise, "Amazing Grace" (1772), was born from the heart, mind, and experiences of Englishman John Newton. Knowing the story of Newton and his journey of faith before writing this hymn will help to understand the depth of his words and power of God's grace.

After his mother died when he was six years old, Newton abandoned his religious training as a child, rebelled against authority, and became known for his profanity and cruelty. He would later become a slave ship master, a profession in which he served for several years.

However, one stormy night at sea, when his ship was in danger of sinking and he was in real danger of dying, Newtown cried out to God to save them from the storm. In response to God's saving grace, Newton would eventually abandon the slave trade and wholeheartedly devote his life to God's service.

In 1764, he was ordained an Anglican priest and became quite popular as a preacher and hymn writer, penning some 280 hymns, including Amazing grace. In later years, Newton fought alongside William Wilberforce to abolish the African slave trade altogether and he rejoiced greatly when the Slave Trade Act passed in 1807.

This hymn is in a sense Newton's own story. It was amazing grace that gave him eyes to see, found him when he was lost and transformed him to be an agent of grace for the lost world in which he lived.

This hymn is also the story of every Christian. It is amazing that God would save and love any of us! As we sing the lovely words of this hymn, which so aptly describes our relationship with Jesus, let us give thanks to God for His amazing life-saving and life-transforming grace!

# Praise Our Gracious God



What is your only comfort in life and in death?

That I am not my own, but belong — body and soul, in life and in death — to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil.

He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven.

In fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

Because I belong to Him,

Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him.

 DOXOLOGY
 OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Trust Our Gracious God

CHORAL MEDITATION: "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" ..... arr. Brad Jones

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.

Haleigh Boykin, soloist Brad Jones, piano

#### CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of salvation, in Christ

You have done great and marvelous things.

By Your power You lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into Your kingdom.

Salvation is Your gift to us, but we confess that often we try to replace Your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have.

Forgive us for our foolishness and our smallness of faith.

Forgive us for our foolishness and our smallness of faith. Help us to focus on Your amazing grace and help us to live grateful lives in return.

It is through Jesus, our Redeemer, we pray.

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON...... I Timothy 1:15

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

#### WORSHIP OF GOD WITH THE GIFTS OF GOD

Choir:

Worthy the Lamb.

Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim,

And publish abroad His wonderful name; The name all victorious of Jesus extol;

His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.

Worthy the Lamb, "Salvation to God, who sits on the throne!"

Let all cry aloud, and honor the Son;

The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,

Fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.

God rules in the height, Almighty to save;

Though hid from our sight, His presence we have, The great congregation His triumph shall sing,

Ascribing salvation to Jesus our King.

"Worthy the Lamb."

### ♦Congregation stands and sings:

Then let us adore and give Him His right, All glory and pow'r, all wisdom and might; All honor and blessing with angels above, And thanks never ceasing and infinite love. "Worthy the Lamb!"

The Chancel Choir Calvin Ellis, director

## **†**GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15). . . . . . . . . . . Peggy Stephens

## FOLLOW OUR GRACIOUS GOD

#### \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (please stand)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.



 \*CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

 ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Sonata No. 1: Allegro vivace assai" . . . . . . Felix Mendelssohn

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♦HYMN OF COMMITMENT: No. 353 "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord" . . . . ST. THOMAS

♦ Indicates congregation standing

**†**BENEDICTION (please raise hands)

- I. Excuses Removed (Acts 28:26)
  - A. Heard (23)

B. Seen (1-10)

- II. Essential Revival (Acts 28:27)
  - A. Repentance

B. Faith