

Midweek of Lent 3
Light Shining in the Darkness

AS WE GATHER

“Let there be light,” God said (Genesis 1:3). And there was light. Through the promised treasure of His Word, God keeps speaking to us. And because He does, there is light. Light from above! Light never-ending! Light that enlightens our way to life everlasting! Jesus Christ is this “light of the world” (John 8:12), the light no darkness can overcome. By His Word and Spirit, this light breaks through again today, enters our lives, and enables us to shine brightly for Him.

“THIS IS AMAZING GRACE”

**Who breaks the power
Of sin and darkness?
Whose love is mighty
And so much stronger?
The King of Glory,
The King above all kings.**

**Who shakes the whole earth
With holy thunder?
Who leaves us breathless
In awe and wonder?
The King of Glory,
The King above all kings.**

**THIS IS AMAZING GRACE,
THIS IS UNFAILING LOVE,
THAT YOU WOULD TAKE MY PLACE,
THAT YOU WOULD BEAR MY CROSS.
YOU LAID DOWN YOUR LIFE
THAT I WOULD BE SET FREE.
OH, JESUS, I SING FOR ALL
THAT YOU’VE DONE FOR ME.**

**Who brings our chaos
Back into order?
Who makes the orphan
A son and daughter?
The King of Glory,
The King of Glory.**

**Who rules the nations
With truth and justice?
Shines like the sun in
All of its brilliance?
The King of Glory,
The King above all kings.**

**THIS IS AMAZING GRACE,
THIS IS UNFAILING LOVE,
THAT YOU WOULD TAKE MY PLACE,
THAT YOU WOULD BEAR MY CROSS.
YOU LAID DOWN YOUR LIFE
THAT I WOULD BE SET FREE.
OH, JESUS, I SING FOR ALL
THAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.**

*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King
who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King
who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King
who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy, worthy, worthy.*

**THIS IS AMAZING GRACE,
THIS IS UNFAILING LOVE,
THAT YOU WOULD TAKE MY PLACE,
THAT YOU WOULD BEAR MY CROSS.
YOU LAID DOWN YOUR LIFE
THAT I WOULD BE SET FREE.
OH, JESUS, I SING FOR ALL
THAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME.**

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INVOCATION

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

C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5

P For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,

C **so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.**

P But He was wounded for our transgressions;

C **He was crushed for our iniquities;**

P upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,

C **and with His stripes we are healed.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Philippians 2:1–11

P Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

P With humble hearts, let us pray together:

C **Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.**

P Darkness seeks to overtake us and rob us of the light, distracting us from Your never-failing presence in our lives.

C **Our rebellion against You in thought, in word, and in action is why You died for us—**

P to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

C **With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

P God, in His abundant love, has heard our prayers; and in His mercy, has forgiven all our sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, You are the light of the world, and no amount of darkness in our world can overcome Your presence shining in our lives. Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 1:1–5

P The Old Testament Reading is from Genesis, the first chapter.

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE LESSON

Ephesians 5:1–2, 8–14

P The Epistle is from Ephesians, the fifth chapter.

¹Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. ²And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. . . . ⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:12–18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹²Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” ¹³So the Pharisees said to Him, “You are bearing witness about Yourself; Your testimony is not true.” ¹⁴Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about Myself, My testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going. ¹⁵You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one. ¹⁶Yet even if I do judge, My judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent Me. ¹⁷In your Law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸I am the one who bears witness about Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness about Me.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

“YOUR GREAT NAME”

[Matthew 22:37, 22:39, 22:44, Deuteronomy. 6:5]

Lost are saved find their way

At the sound of Your great Name

All condemned feel no shame

At the sound of Your great Name.

Ev'ry fear has no place

At the sound of Your great Name

The enemy, he has to leave

At the sound of Your great Name.

**JESUS, WORTHY IS THE LAMB
THAT WAS SLAIN FOR US
THE SON OF GOD AND MAN
YOU ARE HIGH AND LIFTED UP**

**AND ALL THE WORLD WILL PRAISE
YOUR GREAT NAME.**

**All the weak find their strength
At the sound of Your great Name
Hungry souls receive grace
At the sound of Your great Name.**

**The fatherless, they find their rest
At the sound of Your great Name
The sick are healed the dead are raised
At the sound of Your great Name.**

**JESUS, WORTHY IS THE LAMB
THAT WAS SLAIN FOR US
THE SON OF GOD AND MAN
YOU ARE HIGH AND LIFTED UP
AND ALL THE WORLD WILL PRAISE
YOUR GREAT NAME,
YOUR GREAT NAME.**

*Redeemer my Healer Lord Almighty
Our Savior, Defender, You are my King
Redeemer my Healer Lord Almighty
Our Savior, Defender, You are my King*

SOLO

**JESUS, WORTHY IS THE LAMB
THAT WAS SLAIN FOR US
THE SON OF GOD AND MAN
YOU ARE HIGH AND LIFTED UP
AND ALL THE WORLD WILL PRAISE
YOUR GREAT NAME,
YOUR GREAT NAME,
YOUR GREAT NAME.
JESUS, JESUS.
JESUS, JESUS!**

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SERMON

OFFERING

“WE FALL DOWN”

We fall down,
We lay our crowns
At the feet of Jesus.
The greatness of
His mercy and love,
At the feet of Jesus.

WE CRY, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.”

WE CRY, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.”

**WE CRY, “HOLY, HOLY,
HOLY IS THE LAMB.”**

We fall down,
We lay our crowns
At the feet of Jesus.
The greatness of
His mercy and love,
At the feet of Jesus.

WE CRY, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.”

WE CRY, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.”

**WE CRY, “HOLY, HOLY,
HOLY IS THE LAMB.”**

WE CRY, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.”

WE CRY, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY.”

**WE CRY, “HOLY, HOLY,
HOLY IS THE LAMB.”**

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.
- C **Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.**
- P Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,
- C **that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.**
- P Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.
- C **Enable us to walk in the light of Your grace, knowing that You are truly the light of the world that darkness can never overcome.**

- P Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, [*especially* . . .], and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.
- C **All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- C **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.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

- C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
- C **Amen.**

“HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD”

**The splendor of the King,
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice,
All the earth rejoice.**

**He wraps Himself in light,
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice,
And trembles at His voice.**

**HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD,
SING WITH ME
HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD.
AND ALL WILL
SEE HOW GREAT,
HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!**

**And age to age He stands,
And time is in His hands.
Beginning and the End,
Beginning and the End.**

**The Godhead Three in one
Father, Spirit, Son,
The Lion and the Lamb,
The Lion and the Lamb.**

**HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD,
SING WITH ME
HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD.
AND ALL WILL
SEE HOW GREAT,
HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!**

***NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES
WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE
MY HEART WILL SING
HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!***

***NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES
WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE
MY HEART WILL SING
HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!***

**HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD,
SING WITH ME
HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD.
AND ALL WILL
SEE HOW GREAT,
HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!**

**HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD,
SING WITH ME
HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD.
AND ALL WILL
SEE HOW GREAT,
HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!**

**HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD,
SING WITH ME
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AND ALL WILL
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HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!**

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