



Sing with All the Saints in Glory:

2023 Lenten Midweek Series

Fifth Wednesday. 7 p.m. March 29, 2023

Prelude – Bell

Lent is a time of renewal. We focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus—and in turn focus on our own death and resurrection found in baptism.

We who have been baptized into Christ have died to sin and are the righteous saints of God. At the same time, we know that we struggle daily with sin as we seek to follow Jesus. This is the wonderful Lutheran understanding of being saint and sinner simultaneously.

Greeting

P- The love of God poured into our hearts,
the saving grace of Jesus,
and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C- **And also with you.**

Gathering Song – **Borning Cry**, ELW 732

*The composition of “**Borning Cry**” began in 1985, when Mr. Ylvisaker was asked to prepare a series on baptism called “Reflections” for the ALC. His Web site states: “John began work on the song before any footage for the video had been shot.*

1. I was there to hear your borning cry,
I’ll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well;

In a blaze of light you wandered off
to find where demons dwell.

2. When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk 'till rising sun.
3. In the Middle Ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in,
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.
4. I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.

Confession & Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins:

P- Blessed is the Holy Trinity, + one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C- Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P- Holy God,

C- 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, lead us,

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

P- Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave his 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.

C- Amen

Opening Prayer

P- O God, ancient and eternal,
in Christ you make all things new.

In baptism we have been buried with Christ
and made citizens with the saints.

Keep us faithful all our days,
and at length bring us into glory.

Through the same Jesus Christ,
our life, our strength, and our hope.

C- Amen

Song – What Wondrous Love is This, ELW 666

Famous Appalachian folksong collector George Pullen Jackson noted that the structure of the text was very similar to the English ballad "Captain Kidd." Robert Kidd was a pirate who was executed in 1701. All of this suggests a song with its origins in oral tradition sung in several variants, but eventually stabilized by being printed in a widely circulated collection. "What Wondrous Love Is This" captures our attention right from the beginning with its simplicity and persistence – "What wondrous love is this" sung three times.

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?

2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Word

The Word includes two hymns and two readings associated with the specific commemorations and theme of each week.

Romans 6:3-11

Revelation 7:9-17

Dying and Rising with Christ: Hans Nielsen Hauge; John Donne

This final week commemorates Hans Nielsen Hauge, a nineteenth-century Norwegian lay preacher, and John Donne, a seventeenth English poet and dean of St. Paul's Cathedral in London. At first glance there is little that connects these two—but at the heart of both individuals were fervent proclaiming of the amazing grace of God with as much clarity as possible.

Offering Song – Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound ELW 799

Written almost two and a half centuries ago in 1772, the words for the beloved song were borne from the heart, mind and experiences of the Englishman John Newton. Knowing the story of John Newton's life as a slave trader and the journey he went through before writing the hymn will help to understand the depth of his words and his gratefulness for God's truly amazing grace.

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.

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!

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.

4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Offering Prayer

**P- God of good gifts,
receive these and our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel. Amen**

4 Prayers that Thank God for His Amazing Grace

Ephesians 2:8–9

P- God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

C - Father, thank you for Jesus, your perfect gift of grace. I know my eternal future is secure because all you have done for me through Jesus. You have made me yours forever. Nothing can remove me from your hand. I am safe and secure in your unchanging love. How can I begin to thank you?! With my life. I give you my all. I love you, Lord. Amen.

Romans 6:13b–14

P- So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. Sin is no longer your master, for you no longer live under the requirements of the law. Instead, you live under the freedom of God's grace.

C- Father, how I have struggled to understand the freedom you give. Forgive me for believing I live under the Law's requirements. Thank you for your patience in teaching me your truth. When my heart and mind are set on you — when I am fully surrendered and living for your glory, then and only then can I know true freedom. By the power of your Spirit help me keep me surrendered and grateful ... and fully alive to serve and glorify you. Amen.

Hebrews 4:16

P- So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive His mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.

C- Father, it overwhelms me that you want me to enter throne room in prayer. It is in that holy place where I have learned to “be still and know you.” It is there I have found your mercy that forgives my foolish selfishness and your grace that saves me. Thank you for Jesus, our example ... who understands who I am, loves me, and helps me. Amen.

Romans 5:6

P- And since it is through God’s kindness, then it is not by their good works. For, in that case, God’s grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved.

C- Father, you are kind and good. It is impossible for anyone to deserve what Jesus has done. Your grace is free, undeserved, and unconditional. There is nothing I can ever do to repay you for all you’ve done and all you continue to do in my life. I am saved by your grace alone and in humble response I humbly thank you and offer myself to you. With your Spirit’s help, may I live this day for your glory. Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

**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.**

Concluding Prayer

P- Into your wide embrace, O God,
we place all our prayers spoken and unspoken,
trusting that you will receive them into your heart of mercy,
Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior.

C- Amen

Sending Song – I Love to Tell the Story ELW 661

1 I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word. [Refrain]

3 I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long. [Refrain]

Sending

P- Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith,
as we are being rooted and grounded in love,
strengthened by the Spirit,
and filled with all the fullness of God.

C- Amen

P- Go in peace. Serve in love.

C- Thanks be to God.

People to keep in your prayers this week:

Joyce Jurgens

Marilyn Folkerts

Cora Church

Ernest Zimmerman

Brianna Podtburg

Dorothy Parde

Gary Ideus

And anyone else on your heart and in your minds!

Servicemen Deployment

Please keep Jon & Emily & Ada Gronewold in your prayers. Jon and others from his National Guard Unit are being deployed to Germany for up to a year. Keep them and their extended families in your prayers. We will be posting a mailing address when he gets to Germany.

Please Keep Quintin Hartig also in your prayer. Along with his parents. Son of Cally & Jerod Ideus and John Hartig. He has been deployed to Kuwait and will be stationed there for about a year. His address for letters and packages is as follows:

SGT Quintin Hartig
2-130FAR/C TRP 1-134th
APO, AE 09366

Schedule for Holy Week

Sunday

Palm Sunday/Dramatic Reading/Kids of the Kingdom & Amigos/ NO Breakfast Club (due to Prom at Freeman)

Wednesday

6 pm First Communion Class/make communion bread

No 7th & 8th Grade confirmation Class

7 pm Council & Committee Meetings

Thursday

7 pm Maundy Thursday Services/Quartet singing/ Communion/First Communion for the 5th graders

Friday

7 pm Good Friday Services/Men's Choir sing

Endless Hallelujah practice after worship

Saturday

Parish Hall reserved (Winkles)

Easter Sunday

7 am Sunrise Service/Youth Service – Endless Hallelujah

Breakfast following in the Parish Hall

9:30 am Worship/Communion

