

1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and boundless;
my soul, believe and doubt it not.

Why waver at this word of promise?

Has Scripture ever falsehood taught?

So then this word must true remain:

by grace you, too, shall heav'n obtain.

2 By grace God's Son, our only Savior,
came down to earth to bear our sin.

Was it because of your own merit

that Jesus died, your soul to win?

No, it was grace, and grace alone,

that brought him from his heav'nly throne.

3 By grace! O mark this word of promise
when you are by your sins oppressed,
when Satan plagues your troubled conscience,
and when your heart is seeking rest.

What reason cannot comprehend
God by his grace to you did send.

4 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,
in tribulation's furnace tried,
by grace, despite all fear and trouble,
the Father's heart is open wide.
Where could I help and strength secure
if grace were not my anchor sure?

5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;
in Jesus' promise I rejoice,
for though I know my heart's condition,
I also know my Savior's voice.
My heart is glad, all grief has flown
since I am saved by grace alone.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Christian L. Scheidt, 1709–1761, abr.

Text: Public domain

(Please stand for the final stanza)

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

(Silence for meditation and reflection)

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory Be to God on High

CW 157

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great
glory,

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.

You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.

For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.

You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Be seated)

Numbers 21:4–9

They set out from Mount Hor along the road to the Red Sea to go around the land of Edom, but the people became very impatient along the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? Look, there is no food! There is no water! And we are disgusted by this worthless food!”

⁶The Lord sent venomous snakes among the people, and the snakes bit the people. As a result many people from Israel died. ⁷The people went to Moses and said, “We have sinned, because we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray to the Lord to take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed on behalf of the people.

⁸The Lord said to Moses, “Make a venomous snake and put it on a pole. If anyone who is bitten looks at it, he will live.” ⁹Moses made a bronze snake and put it on the pole. If a snake had bitten anyone, if that person looked at the bronze snake, he lived.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

32 How Blest Are Those

Psalm 32

- 1 How blest are those the LORD forgives;
how glad they are to hear
their sin is gone, their guilt atoned,
their record clean and clear.
- 2 I silently concealed my guilt,
but then I groaned all day:
your heavy hand, like summer heat,
took all my strength away.
- 3 I then confessed my sin to you,
my grievous guilt and shame,
and you forgave my wickedness
by your most gracious name.
- 4 Let all the faithful pray to you
while you may still be found;
you place them safe above the flood,
secure on higher ground.
- 5 You hide me, LORD; you hold me fast
in all adversity,
surrounding me with faithful love
and songs of victory.

Ephesians 2:1–10

You were dead in your trespasses and sins, ²in which you formerly walked when you followed the ways of this present world. You were following the ruler of the domain of the air, the spirit now at work in the people who disobey.

³Formerly, we all lived among them in the passions of our sinful flesh, as we carried out the desires of the sinful flesh and its thoughts. Like all the others, we were by nature objects of God's wrath.

⁴But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved! ⁶He also raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. ⁷He did this so that, in the coming ages, he might demonstrate the surpassing riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹not by works, so that no one can boast.

¹⁰For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

John 3:16

Glory, praise, and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,

that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Glory, praise, and honor to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

John 3:14–21

John 3:14–21

“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵so that everyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸The one who believes in him is not condemned, but the one who does not believe is

condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only-begotten Son of God. ¹⁹This is the basis for the judgment: The light has come into the world, yet people loved the darkness rather than the light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰In fact, everyone who practices wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, or else his deeds would be exposed. ²¹But the one who does what is true comes toward the light, in order that his deeds may be seen as having been done in connection with God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

(Be seated)

570 God Loved the World So That He Gave

CW 570

- 1 God loved the world so that he gave
his only Son the lost to save
that all who would in him believe
should everlasting life receive.
- 2 Christ is the solid rock of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death.

All who confide in him alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.

- 3 God would not have the sinner die;
his Son with saving grace is nigh.
His Spirit in the Word declares
that we in Christ are heaven's heirs.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
forgives the sins that you have done.
You're justified by Jesus' blood;
baptized, you are a child of God.
- 5 If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;
this is the anchor of my faith!
- 6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!

To you, O blessèd Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.; Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens- Opffer, Stettin, c. 1778
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the
Father Almighty.**

From there 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.**

(Be seated)

Offering

638 The Gospel Shows the Father's Grace

CW 638

1 The gospel shows the Father's grace,
who sent his Son to save our race,
proclaims how Jesus lived and died
that we might thus be justified.

2 It sets the Lamb before our eyes,
who made th' atoning sacrifice

and calls the souls with guilt oppressed
to come and find eternal rest.

3 It brings the Savior's righteousness
to robe our souls in royal dress;
from all our guilt it brings release
and gives the troubled conscience peace.

4 It is the pow'r of God to save
from sin and Satan and the grave;
it works the faith which firmly clings
to all the treasures which it brings.

5 It bears to all the tidings glad
and bids their hearts no more be sad;
the weary, burdened souls it cheers
and banishes their guilty fears.

6 May we in faith its message learn
nor thanklessly its blessings spurn;
may we in faith its truth confess
and praise the Lord, our righteousness.

Text: Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.

Text: Public domain

Prayer

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

(Be seated)

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

Amen

627 To God Be the Glory

CW 627

1 To God be the glory, great things he has done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.
(Refrain)

Ref Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father

through Jesus the Son

and give him the glory,

great things he has done!

- 2 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son,
but purer and higher and greater will be
our joy and our wonder when Jesus we see.
(Refrain)

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915, abr., alt.

Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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