

## + Why is Amazing Grace so Amazing?"



### + The People of Mount Zion-Finksburg, Maryland +

Wm. Louis Piel Pastor + Leslie Gabler, Director of Music  
Ushers in May Lois Pulket & Judy Piel, Holy Communion Mark Hemler & Shirley Loveless  
Charles Beckhardt,

The Fifth Sunday of the Easter Season + May 7, 2023 + Worship 9:55 a.m. +  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

### Musical Prelude + The Message of New Life in Christ Jesus

**A Thought** "In the event associated with Jesus the Christ, and in witness to that event in the form of the Christian story one sees and experiences "Grace" in action."

(Unison) "For by grace you have been saved through your faith, and this is not Your own doing, it is a gift of God, not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life."

**Hymn Verse of Amazing Grace** "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."

### Call to Worship (Unison)

God of grace, God of glory,  
As we gather this morning to worship,  
We humbly admit that following you is not always easy.  
In your glory you stand before us,  
At the same time You remind us to expect heartbreak and challenge,  
as part of life for we are the people of the earth.  
We get a glimpse of your glory,  
At the same time we are often confused, frightened, unsure what to do or say.  
God of grace, made known to us in Jesus the Christ,  
in the challenge and in the glory  
you call us to look toward you, to listen to you.  
Grant us the grace and wisdom to watch,  
to listen, to follow, to learn,  
and, in the end,  
to celebrate your "amazing grace" in Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**Hymn of Grace** "Grace, Greater than Our Sin" U.M. Hymnal #365

### Opening Prayer

**Anthem** “Wonderful Grace of Jesus” + The Faithful Few

“Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin, how shall my tongue describe it? Where shall it’s praises begin? .....Wonderful, matchless grace of Jesus, deeper than the mighty rolling sea, higher than the mountain, all sufficient grace for even me. O magnify the precious name of Jesus, praise his name!”

**A Thought About God’s Grace:** “(1) God had the freedom to remain unrelated. (2) Instead God was moved to create a universe, to situate humans in it and to move forward toward them. (3) Despite the divine intent that they be ‘good’ and remain so, the biblical writings picture men and women as fallen, removed from positive relations with God and threatened by the dangers of destruction. (3) As revealed in Christian scriptures and grasped in Christian faith, God is love; whatever else it means, this reality suggests that God is moved by nothing other than that love to visit human, bring them back to God, and restore them. (4) This love, unmotivated and spontaneous – which means that it does not need to find redeeming qualities in its object – finds expression in grace!” (Theologian Martin E. Marty)

**Video** “Amazing Grace” (BYU Voical Point & Friends) – A Cappella

**A word from the Apostle Paul**

“For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are now justified (“made right) ‘by his grace as a gift’ through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus ....” (Romans 3.23)

**Morning Prayer** – Prayer Leader

**Our Prayer Song** (“The Faith We Sing” songbook) #2164

(Two times) “Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true,  
With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living, sanctuary, for you.”

(Unison)

Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world.

We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious.

Forgive us for not sharing in the Good News.

Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ.

Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

(Unison-Congregation)

***We sing together*** (The green “Worship & Song” book #3068)

Our Father, which 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 that trespass against us.

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

For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

## **We Welcome our Children**

*Even if we do not have children in congregational worship we remember all God's children.*

**“Jesus loves me, This I know, for the Bible tells me so, Little ones to him belong, they are weak  
But He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes! Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so**

## **Informal Moments + Reception of our Tithes & Offerings**

Offering Response (Hymnal #94) “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

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### **+ Celebrating The Holy Communion + The Table of the Lord +**

Scripture Passages I Corinthians & the Gospel of Luke

*Congregation Singing (#618) “Let us break bread together on our knees  
(repeat) When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun, O Lord,  
Have mercy on me.”*

Hymnal page 12 + Invitation & Prayer of Confession

Hymnal page 13 “The Great Thanksgiving”

Consecration of the Elements + Bread & Wine

Communion of the Faithful + Please come at the direction of the usher

*(Important+ At Mount Zion “All are invited to the Table of the Lord. We have set the Table  
but Jesus is the Host, and He invites All to His Table.”*

Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving

**A Final Thought About God's Grace** (1) Although Grace was received in faith, it did Not depend upon sacrifices believers would make in the sense of acts of generosity or mercy done to impress God. (2) Naturally, those who experience grace would realize that they in turn become agents of proclaiming its availability and in transmitting it to others.”

**Our Closing Hymn** “Amazing Grace” U.M. Hymnal #378

**Closing Blessing** (Pastor)

Go now as God’s chosen witnesses

Go now to testify that Christ has been raised and that we are raised with him.  
Do not look for Jesus among the dead, but be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

And may God raise you from all that would entomb you;  
May Christ Jesus call you by name and go ahead of you;  
And may the Holy Spirit empower you for all that is good.

**Congregation Unison Closing Prayer** (Congregation)

As we prepare to leave this place and go back into the world  
We affirm that the “Alleluias” of Easter are not just words  
They are a way of life and living

We share the “alleluias”

When our bread is divided among the hungry,  
When our table is set, and all God’s people can eat together  
When the hungry in spirit are fed with God’s love  
When peace is celebrated even among those we disagree with  
When diverse and divided communities are brought together  
When neighbors love each other, regardless.

We leave this place bubbling over with God’s love!

We promise to share that love!

So let it be! Amen and Amen!

**Musical Postlude + Leave this place but don’t forget to take Jesus with you!**