



GOD'S GRACE IS GREAT!

**Amazing Lenten
Devotions for Children**

Ash Wednesday

GRACE FOR THE LOST

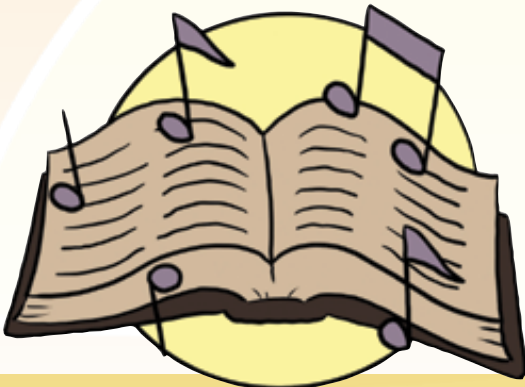
*Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.*

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. In the early days of God's people, ashes showed sadness and turning away from sinfulness. Lent itself is a time to think about how God always points to the Savior through the sacraments and through his holy words in the Bible.

When we sing the words of the familiar song "Amazing Grace," we remember that God's great grace was poured out upon us because of the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross.

Because of Jesus Christ, we can say that we have been saved by God's grace. And that's amazing!

*Dear God, help me see your grace during
Lent, as I read the Bible and notice your work
in my life. Amen.*



Thursday After Ash Wednesday..... Genesis 3:6-8

YOU CAN'T HIDE

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:8



God created the world, so everything was good. Then ... the first bad thing happened. Adam and Eve sinned. They felt ashamed and tried to hide from God. They knew God would find them, but they hid anyway.

Perhaps you remember a time when you did something wrong and you tried to hide what you had done from a parent, baby-sitter or teacher. How did that go? Did it make the problem go away? Did you really think it would, or were you ashamed, avoiding what might happen because of your actions?

God called Adam and Eve out into the open and showed them their sin. He then told them what would happen because of it. They would have to leave God's perfect paradise. But that was not the end of Adam and Eve's story. God made a promise. God would send a Savior—God's first promise of amazing grace.

Heavenly Father, thank you for walking with me, showing me my sin and for taking that sin away through Jesus.

THE LOVING FATHER

For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.

Luke 15:24

Jesus told a story about a young son who wanted to leave his father's home and go his own way. His loving father gave the son his inheritance and then let his son go live his life as he wanted.



When the son realized he made bad choices and couldn't live without his father and all his blessings, the son returned begging for forgiveness.

What happened next? The father was so happy he threw a big party and celebrated the return of his lost son.

When we make bad choices and stray from God's path, we are like that lost son. But there is good news for us. We can joyfully sing the line "I once was lost, but now am found" and know that our Heavenly Father celebrates when we come back to him asking for forgiveness.

***Father in heaven, sometimes I think
I can do without your blessings. Forgive me
and receive me again.***

Saturday After Ash Wednesday..... Genesis 12:1-7

GOD MAKES PROMISES

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

Genesis 12:2

If you've ever broken a bone, you probably remember how much it hurt. You might also remember that you missed out on some activities for a little while. But the doctor promised it would heal, the pain would go away and you'd be running around soon.

God's people were living very sinful lives by breaking all of God's laws and breaking their relationship to God. But God sent them promises of a Savior who would heal that broken relationship.

God spoke to people like Abram and promised more great things. Abram's family would have many people, be blessed and bless others. And the Savior of the world would come from his family line. God's promise of a Savior is for us too.

Dear God, you see my sin and show me your Son, my Savior. Thank you for fulfilling your promises.



First Sunday of Lent..... Psalm 107:1–9

LOST AND FOUND

Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!

Psalm 107:1

Have you ever been lost? When you realize that you don't know where you are and you're disconnected from your group, your heart starts to thump. It races faster. You look around, then turn around—not sure about anything. Waves of aloneness and anxiety wash over you.

When we get disconnected from God, we can feel those same things. Just as we retrace our steps to find our group or we call out to our parents, we can go back to the Bible, read it and call out to God. He will find us every time—because he didn't go anywhere. We wandered off—and he was watching over us the whole time.

Thank the Lord for his love that never fails, for all the blessings he gives us.

O Lord, when I turn away from you, I think you've gone away. Remind me that you're always here, always near me.



NOW I SEE

One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.

John 9:25



A man who had been born blind suddenly could see, thanks to Jesus. Others couldn't believe it. They thought it was a trick. They accused Jesus of being a bad person, not the Son of God.

When the man was asked, he gave glory to God by telling people what Jesus had done for him. He pointed to God. He pointed to Jesus.

The people who doubted were blind in their faith. They could not see that Jesus was God. They could not see that Jesus came to earth to save them.

We once didn't have faith. We were blind to him too. But now we can see Jesus. We can say we once were blind, but now we see. Thanks be to God!

Jesus, you have opened my eyes to see how you are God. Help me point others to you too.



Tuesday, the First Week..... Luke 19:1-10

SAVE THE LOST

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

Luke 19:10



Jesus traveled to a town where many people saw him. Some were rich. Others were poor. Some thought they followed every rule. Others admitted they did not.

When Jesus decided to go to wealthy Zacchaeus' house, it wasn't because Jesus only visited people with lots of money. Jesus looked at Zacchaeus' heart, at his faith, at his desire to turn away from his bad thoughts and actions. Jesus had come to seek out Zacchaeus and save him.

Jesus knows that we sin too. He wants us to be like Zacchaeus and see ourselves as sinners who would be lost without a Savior. Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. He came for Zacchaeus, and he came for each one of us.

Jesus, I know I don't follow all your commandments, no matter how hard I try. Thank you for forgiving me. Thank you for saving me.

Wednesday, the First Week

GRACE THAT RELIEVES ALL OUR FEARS

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.*

We may not remember “the hour we first believed,” but we certainly can remember fears we have had. What fears can you think of right now? Do you fear the dark, animals, people, the future? We know that we should fear and love God, but what does that have to do with being afraid? Is it the same thing? And what does grace have to do with it?

This week we will explore this second stanza of “Amazing Grace.” We will have time to think about, talk about, and pray about our fears. We will come to know how God’s grace comforts us through faith.



*Dear God, you have given me faith in your
precious grace. Help my faith to grow as your
grace overflows my life.*



Easter Sunday Matthew 28:1-10

... AS THE SUN

He is not here, for he has risen...

Matthew 28:6



The sun rose. The women went to the tomb. The earth shook as an angel moved the big stone. The angel told the fearful women that Jesus has risen. He told them to go and tell the others. Then they saw Jesus and knew the angel's message was indeed true. They ran to tell the good news.

On that day when the Son of God rose from the dead, he showed his power as our King Jesus. When we've been with him for thousands of years, we'll still be talking about the day he rose from the dead.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*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.*

Lyrics of "Amazing Grace" as they appear in this text are from the public domain, as cited in hymnary.com.

Scripture quotations are from The ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



By Stephenie Hovland. Illustrated by Brian King © 2023 Creative Communications for the Parish, a division of Bayard, Inc., 1564 Fencorp Dr., Fenton, MO 63026. www.creativecommunications.com. 800-325-9414. All rights reserved. Printed in the USA.

GC6