

**A SERVICE OF HOLY WORSHIP
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021 — 10:00 AM**

An asterisk () indicates that those who are able may stand;
bold type — please respond in unison.*

WE GATHER AND PREPARE OUR HEARTS

WELCOME

PRELUDE

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

Gregg Sewell

CALL TO WORSHIP

Join me in the responsive Call to Worship ...

I was glad when they said unto me ...

let us go into the house of the Lord. Let us worship God!

***HYMN #12**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Please be seated.

If we claim we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But when we confess our sins our God, who is both merciful and just, will forgive us not only for the sins we confess, but of all unrighteousness. Let us confess together our corporate sin, and then spend a few moments in silent, personal, confession.

Let us pray ...

We read in your Holy Word how beyond our imagining you are. You are stronger than we can visualize, and yet you condescended to be born in weakness — as flesh and bone as we are — so that our frailty and our sin could be reconciled as you broke the barrier between life and death, sinfulness and wholeness. Your knowledge is unsearchable, and our limited minds can never grasp your truth.

Please forgive us when we reduce you to a “god” that we can understand. Please forgive our attempts to limit you to fit our image of you. Open our minds and our hearts to your Holy Spirit so that we may grow in our awe of you. Hear now our personal, silent confessions.

(Moment of silence for personal confession.)

We offer our prayers in the name of the One who saves us,
Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Jesus the Christ. And Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone raised in Christ is a new creation. The old life of sin is gone, and a new life in Jesus Christ is begun. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Grace and peace in Christ.

Grace and peace!

***GLORIA PATRI #581**

Glory Be to the Father

WE ENCOUNTER THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Please be seated.

Let us pray.

Holy God, speak to us what has been told from the beginning, your Word that is the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Please join me in a responsive reading from Psalm 147.

Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem;

God gathers the outcasts of Israel.

God heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

God determines the number of the stars;

and gives to all of them their names.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power;

God's understanding is beyond measure.

The Lord lifts up the downtrodden;

God casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving;

make melody to our God on the lyre.

God covers the heavens with clouds,

prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.

God gives to the animals their food,

and to the young ravens when they cry.

God's delight is not in the strength of the horse,

nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him,

in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Praise the Lord!

ANTHEM

A Blessing of Grace

Joseph M. Martin

SERMON

“Counting Blue Cars”

Rev. Dr. Leslie Belden

***Sermon Includes* FIRST READING**

Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³ who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; ³¹ but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

***Sermon Includes* SECOND READING**

Mark 1:29-39

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” ³⁸ He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out

to do.”³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Let us give thanks to God by giving our tithes and offerings.

OFFERTORY

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

R. Robertson, 1758

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We sing to you, God, with thanksgiving, making melody to you with our praise.

Use these gifts to spread your gospel near and far, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO MINISTER

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN #649**

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Rev. Dr. Leslie Belden

***GOING FORTH**

Go Now in Peace

Besig/Price

***POSTLUDE**

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

John C. Ylvisaker, 1985

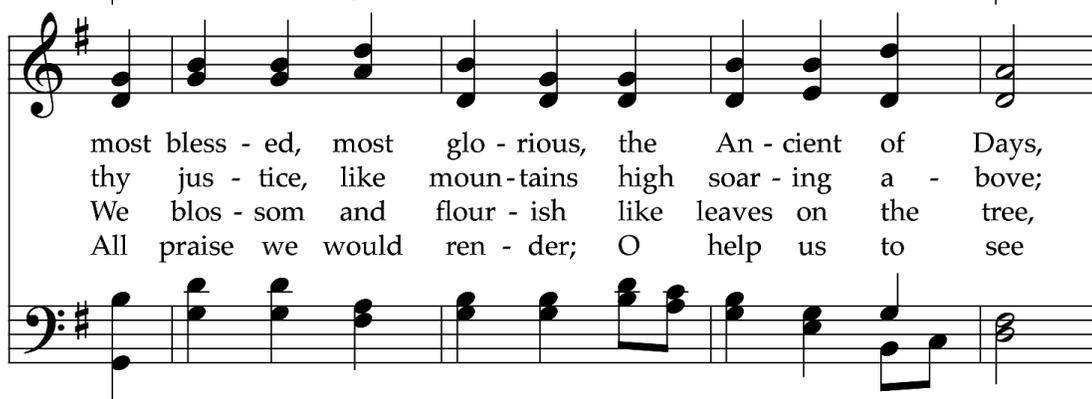
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 12



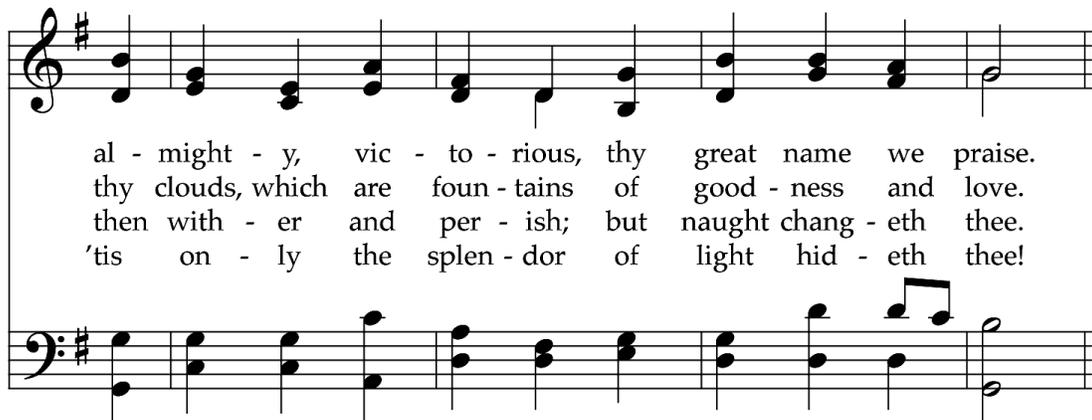
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small.
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light.



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might:
In all life thou liv - est, the true life of all.
Thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight.



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
thy jus - tice, like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove;
We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

The opening line of this hymn was inspired by the three divine attributes listed in 1 Timothy 1:17 (King James Version), and it continues by considering how God's life exceeds our own finite existence. The text is well set to a Welsh melody shaped by many three-note units.

649 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved. How pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come. 'Tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

CHOCTAW

*Shilombish holitopa ma!
 Ishmminti pulla cha
 hatak ilbusha pia ha
 is pi yukpalashke.*

CREEK

*Po ya fek cha he thlat ah tet
 ah non ah cha pa kas
 cha fee kee o funnan la kus
 um e ha ta la yus.*

NAVAHO

*Nizhónítgo joobá diits' a'
 yisdáshítinigtí,
 lah yóóiiyá, k'ad
 shénáhoosdzin,
 doo eesh'ít da nt'ée.*

As was his custom, the author wrote this hymn to accompany his sermon on 1 Chronicles 17:16–17, preached on January 1, 1773; he called it “Faith’s Review and Expectation.” Much of its current popularity comes from this now-familiar tune, an association that began in 1835.