



gracefallschurch.org  GraceFallsChurchVA  gracelutheranchurchva  Grace Falls Church

M: Minister

A: All

WELCOME

HYMN: “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing!”
found on page 6 of this worship folder

INVOCATION

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

A: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

A: Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

The minister offers the Prayer of the Day.

THE READING OF GOD'S WORD

FIRST LESSON:

Lamentations 3:19-26

I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. ²⁰ I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. ²¹ Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: ²² Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion; therefore I will wait for him."
²⁵ The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; ²⁶ it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

SECOND LESSON:

1 John 4:7-21

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. ¹⁰ This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. ¹³ This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. ²¹ And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**A: 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.**

HYMN: "Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound"
found on page 87 of this worship folder

MESSAGE

“Amazing Love: The Father’s Love”
based on Luke 15:11-32

Luke 15:11-32

Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. ²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

PRAYERS & BLESSING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

The minister offers the Prayer of the Church.

LORD'S PRAYER

A: 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.

HYMN:

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”
found on page 8 of this worship folder

ANNOUNCEMENTS & BLESSING

“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”



Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing thy
 Here I raise my E - be - neez - er, Hith - er to thy help I'm
 O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con - strained to



grace; Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, Call for
 come. And I hope by thy good plea - sure Safe - ly
 be! Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter, Bind my



songs of loud - est praise. Teach me some me - lo - dious
 to ar - rive at home. Je - sus sought me when a
 wan - d'ring heart to thee: Prone to wan - der, Lord, I



son - net, Sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove; Praise the
 strang - er, Wan - d'ring from the fold of God; He, to
 feel it, Prone to leave the God I love; Here's my



mount; I'm fixed up - on it; mount of God's re - deem - ing love.
 res - cue me from dan - ger, In - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 heart, O take and seal it; Seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound 379

F C7 Dm F

1 A - maz - ing grace — how sweet the sound — That
 2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; His
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright

Dm F C7 Am C F

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
 Word my hope se - cures. He will my shield and
 have al - read - y come; 'Tis grace has brought me
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

Bb F C Dm F C7 F

now am found, Was blind but now I see.
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, st. 1-3, abr.; John P. Rees, 19th century, st. 4
 Tune: *Columbian Harmony*, Cincinnati, 1829, alt.

NEW BRITAIN
 CM

Setting © 1964 Abingdon Press

329 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; Fill our hearts with
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion For the gos - pel's
 3 So when - e'er the sig - nal's giv - en Us from earth to

joy and peace. Let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; May the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 call a - way, Borne on an - gels' wings to heav - en,

Tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. Oh, re - fresh us,
 In our hearts and lives a - bound! Ev - er faith - ful,
 Glad the sum - mons to o - bey, May we ev - er,

oh, re - fresh us, Trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
 ev - er faith - ful To your truth may we be found.
 may we ev - er Reign with Christ in end - less day.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, alt.
 Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863-1924

NEW ULM
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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