

Thank you for joining us in worship!

*Welcome to Amazing Grace
Lutheran Church*

Father,
forgive
them, for
they do
not know
what
they do.

**Truly, I say to you,
today you will be with
me in Paradise. Woman, this is your son.**

This
is your
mother.
My God,
my God,
why have
you
forsaken
me
I thirst
It is
finished
Father,
into your
hands I
commend
my spirit

*Good Friday
March 29, 2024
7:00 pm*

Welcome to Amazing Grace Lutheran Church,
and a special welcome to our guests and those returning after a time away.

*Thank you for worshiping with us! If you are new or visiting with us this morning, we'd love to have you fill out a **GREEN WELCOME SHEET** so we can follow up.*

*We love having children in worship and we also know that sometimes little ones have a hard time sitting through the whole service. We also have **Crayons, clipboards and activity sheets** available as you come in. We also have **a special time** with kids in worship in every service.*

We have 6 hearing assist devices. Look for this symbol to find one to use.



Whether you are looking for a place to connect with others, grow in your faith, put your talents to work, or a safe place to ask questions, we welcome you to Amazing Grace Lutheran Church. We hope you'll return again soon.

INTRODUCTION

The seven "words from the cross" have been used in many different ways. No one Gospel contains all of them, and so in a way they are like a mosaic - small fragments and broken pieces of the story that by themselves may not be easily understood, but when brought together they give a clearer sense of the heart of God.

WELCOME & SIGN OF THE CROSS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Tonight we gather to hear the story of our God, with arms spread wide in vulnerability, embracing the whole of our life in its every broken, deathly reality.

There is the Christ, our God.

Gathered in his outstretched arms is all our brokenness - all our failures, our guilty secrets, and our shame.

There is the Christ, our God. We watch in silent awe before the power of this costly grace.

OPENING PRAYER

SINGING & PRAYER AROUND THE CROSS

We bring our brokenness to the cross and contemplate this Hardest Grace.

That Priceless Grace ELW 591 v1-2, 4

1 That price-less grace, that price-less grace, that price-less
2 That price-less blood, that price-less blood, that price-less
4 That pre-cious word, that pre-cious word, that pre-cious

grace, which gave me life: Je - sus' life is price-less grace.
blood was shed for me: Je - sus' blood is price-less grace.
word, which brought me light: Je - sus' word is price-less grace.

That price - less grace is life for me.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Andrew Pierce

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE

MESSAGE

The Hardest Grace

Pastor Sandy

SONG

Lamb of God

ELW 336



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958
Music: Twila Paris

THE SERVICE OF SHADOWS

*In this service of increasing darkness, the story of Jesus' Passion is told again.
At the end of each reading one of the seven candles on the cross will be extinguished as
a visual reminder of the death of our Lord.*

FIRST READING

Forgiveness

Luke 23:34-38

“Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.”] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah^{gl} of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

PRAYER

SECOND READING

Unexpected Grace

Luke 23:35-43

³⁵ And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah^{gl} of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him,^h “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

SONG

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

ELW 351 verse 1

**O sacred head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down,
now scornfully surrounded, with thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred head, what glory, what bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call thee mine.**

THIRD READING

The Beloved Community

John 19:26-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. ²⁶ When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” ²⁷ Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

PRAYER

FOURTH READING

In Suffering and Weakness

Mark 15:34

³³ When it was noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"^[u]

SONG

O Sacred Head Now Wounded *verse 2 (V. Kemper, 2011)*

**What you, dear Jesus, suffered casts light upon our way,
We see the cost of loving and living for the day
When all God's children flourish in justice and in peace,
When hungry mouths will be fed and warring ways will cease.**

FIFTH READING

Our Partner on the Journey

John 19:28-29

²⁸ After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "I am thirsty." ²⁹ A jar full of sour wine was standing there. So they put a sponge full of the wine on a branch of hyssop and held it to his mouth

PRAYER

SIXTH READING

Following God's Way to the End

John 19:30

³⁰ When Jesus had received the wine, he said, "It is finished."

SONG

O Sacred Head Now Wounded *verse 3 (V. Kemper, 2011)*

**What language shall I borrow to thank you, dearest friend;
For this your selfless living, your love that did not bend?
May my life bless all people, may my love bring you praise,
That all might share God's blessing, that all would know God's grace.**

SEVENTH READING

Trust & Letting Go

Luke 23:44-46

⁴⁴ It was now about noon, and darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon, ⁴⁵ while the sun's light failed;^[m] and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. ⁴⁶ Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Having said this, he breathed his last.

PRAYER

THE LAST READING

Mark 15:39-47

Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was God's Son!"

⁴⁰ There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹ These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴² When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid.

*We depart in quiet and reflection on the gift of God's Love and Grace embodied in Christ,
to return for the feast and celebration of Easter.*

Join us at 8:30am or 10:00am for worship & a Breakfast Fundraiser from 9-11am.

No offering is taken tonight,
but you may leave an offering in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you to our readers & musicians tonight.

"On Friday, on the cross, Jesus deals with all of those who have estranged themselves from God in this life. Those on the top and those on the bottom, the rich and the poor, all of those who turned away when God offered them the hand of grace, these are the ones who now become the objects of God's special care. Jesus reaches out, reaches down, and again offers the hand of grace."

-William Willimon, Pulpit Resource Vol. 36, No. 1 (Jan-Mar 2008)

Thank you for joining us in worship!

AMAZING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
10955 Elmore Rd, Anchorage AK 99516-1518
Church Phone: (907) 344-4317 Email: aglc907@gmail.com
M-Th ~ 9-3 F ~ 9-12noon
Website: www.amazinggracelutheranchurch.org
Facebook: Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

Pastor:	Sandy VanZyl, aglcpastor@gmail.com (406) 498-3283
Deacon - Children, Youth & Family Ministry:	Sister Amanda Lindquist, SisterDeaconAmanda@gmail.com (651) 303-9965
Office Manager:	Kari Bieshelt, aglc907@gmail.com
Musician:	Kathy Hagen

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