

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER  
MAY 1, 2022



**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Sing praises to God, you people of faith.

**P: We give thanks to God, who heals and restores.**

L: Praise God, who transforms us, who heals and loves us.

**P: Praise God, who clothes us with joy.**

L: Do not be silent. Praise the Lord!

**P: We give thanks to our God, today and always.**

**HYMN** *Here I Am to Worship*

WSM #3177

**Light of the world You stepped down into darkness  
Opened my eyes, let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You  
Hope of a life spent with You**

**Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me**

**King of all days oh, so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above  
Humbly You came to the earth You created  
All for love's sake became poor**

**Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down  
Here I am to say that You're my God  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me (repeat)**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Wisdom of God, come and dwell among us. We gather to hear Your word, and to sing Your praise. We come as we are, trusting that Your grace will perfect us. Interrupt our lives with Your vision of truth and love. We praise You now and always. Amen.**

**HYMN** *In Christ Alone*

WSM #3105

**In Christ alone my hope is found he is my light, my strength, my song  
This cornerstone, this solid ground firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My comforter, my all in all, here in the love of Christ I stand**

**In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied  
For every sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live**

**There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again  
And as He stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death - this is the power of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny  
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Loving God, we can be so sure that we know what is best. We head into life following our own dreams and ignoring Your plans for our lives. Open us up, O God, that we may see Your path, walk in deeper faith, and be loving witnesses to Your glory. Amen.**

## **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**L: Weeping may linger for the night, but joy come in the morning. God is at work, transforming our sorrows and giving us hope for a new day.**

**P: Amen.**

## **JOYS AND CONCERNS**

## **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(spoken in unison)*

**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. Amen**

## **OFFERING & DOXOLOGY**

UMH #95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

### **ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

Acts 9:1-6

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup> He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup> He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

**L: The Word of the Lord!      P: Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

**"A Man Named Saul"**

**Rev. Richard Baker**

**HYMN** *Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)*

WSM #3104

**Amazing grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear and grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed**

Refrain:

**My chains are gone, I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, Amazing grace**

**The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures (refrain)**

**The earth shall soon dissolve like snow; the sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below will be forever mine,  
Will be forever mine, You are forever mine**

**SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE**

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**P: We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: It is right and good...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**P: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

L: ... as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**P: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

L: ...All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever

**P: Amen.**

*(at this time, we invite you to partake of the elements: the bread and the grapes, as a sign of God's love for you)*

**HYMN** *The Summons*

TFWS #2130

**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,  
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

**Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

**Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**

**Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

### **BENEDICTION**

L: Go forth to feed and tend God's people. Do so because you love Jesus, and because Jesus loves and need you. May the abundant blessing of God's love surround and feed you, as God renews you day by day.

**P: Amen.**

### **SENDING SONG** *Celtic Alleluia*

TFWS #2043

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.  
Now he is living the Christ, out of the tomb he has risen.  
He has conquered death, open heaven to all believers.  
Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**