

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please stand.)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

C: **Amen.**

P: If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have turned away from you,
knowingly and unknowingly.**

We have wandered from your resurrection life.

We have strayed from your love for all people.

Turn us back to you, O God.

**Give us new hearts and right spirits,
that we may find what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

P: Receive good news: God turns to you in love.
"I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live," says our God.
All your sin is forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God's grace for you.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: "Open the Eyes of My Heart"

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer-cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol- emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer-cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer-cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav' n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

A READING FROM EPHESIANS 5:8-14

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41 The Message (MSG)

9 ¹⁻²Walking down the street, Jesus saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked, “Rabbi, who sinned: this man or his parents, causing him to be born blind?” ³⁻⁵Jesus said, “You’re asking the wrong question. You’re looking for someone to blame. There is no such cause-effect here. Look instead for what God can do. We need to be energetically at work for the One who sent me here, working while the sun shines. When night falls, the workday is over. For as long as I am in the world, there is plenty of light. I am the world’s Light.” ⁶⁻⁷He said this and then spit in the dust, made a clay paste with the saliva, rubbed the paste on the blind man’s eyes, and said, “Go, wash at the Pool of Siloam” (Siloam means “Sent”). The man went and washed—and saw. ⁸Soon the town was buzzing. His relatives and those who year after year had seen him as a blind man begging were saying, “Why, isn’t this the man we knew, who sat here and begged?” ⁹Others said, “It’s him all right!” But others objected, “It’s not the same man at all. It just looks like him.” He said, “It’s me, the very one.” ¹⁰They said, “How did your eyes get opened?” ¹¹“A man named Jesus made a paste and rubbed it on my eyes and told me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ I did what he said. When I washed, I saw.” ¹²“So where is he?” “I don’t know.” ¹³⁻¹⁵They marched the man to the Pharisees. This day when Jesus made the paste and healed his blindness was the Sabbath. The Pharisees grilled him again on how he had come to see. He said, “He put a clay paste on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “Obviously, this man can’t be from God. He doesn’t keep the Sabbath.” Others

countered, "How can a bad man do miraculous, God-revealing things like this?" There was a split in their ranks. ¹⁷They came back at the blind man, "You're the expert. He opened *your* eyes. What do you say about him?" He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸⁻¹⁹The Jews didn't believe it, didn't believe the man was blind to begin with. So they called the parents of the man now bright-eyed with sight. They asked them, "Is this your son, the one you say was born blind? So how is it that he now sees?" ²⁰⁻²³His parents said, "We know he is our son, and we know he was born blind. But we don't know how he came to see—haven't a clue about who opened his eyes. Why don't you ask him? He's a grown man and can speak for himself." (His parents were talking like this because they were intimidated by the Jewish leaders, who had already decided that anyone who took a stand that this was the Messiah would be kicked out of the meeting place. That's why his parents said, "Ask him. He's a grown man.") ²⁴They called the man back a second time—the man who had been blind—and told him, "Give credit to God. We know this man is an impostor." ²⁵He replied, "I know nothing about that one way or the other. But I know one thing for sure: I was blind . . . I now see." ²⁶They said, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷"I've told you over and over and you haven't listened. Why do you want to hear it again? Are you so eager to become his disciples?" ²⁸⁻²⁹With that they jumped all over him. "You might be a disciple of that man, but we're disciples of Moses. We know for sure that God spoke to Moses, but we have no idea where this man even comes from." ³⁰⁻³³The man replied, "This is amazing! You claim to know nothing about him, but the fact is, he opened my eyes! It's well known that God isn't at the beck and call of sinners, but listens carefully to anyone who lives in reverence and does his will. That someone opened the eyes of a man born blind has never been heard of—ever. If this man didn't come from God, he wouldn't be able to do anything." ³⁴They said, "You're nothing but dirt! How dare you take that tone with us!" Then they threw him out in the street. ³⁵Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and went and found him. He asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶The man said, "Point him out to me, sir, so that I can believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said, "You're looking right at him. Don't you recognize my voice?" ³⁸"Master, I believe," the man said, and worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus then said, "I came into the world to bring everything into the clear light of day, making all the distinctions clear, so that those who have never seen will see, and those who have made a great pretense of seeing will be exposed as blind." ⁴⁰Some Pharisees overheard him and said, "Does that mean you're calling us blind?" ⁴¹Jesus said, "If you were really blind, you would be blameless, but since you claim to see everything so well, you're accountable for every fault and failure."

The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: (hymn # 779)

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We believe in the God of Life,
Who creates and loves people,
Who acts in history
And who promises never to leave us alone.**

**We believe in Jesus of Nazareth,
Who is our brother,
Who wants not to be idolized but to be followed.**

**We believe that we dwell in the presence of the Holy Spirit;
Without Spirit we are nothing;
Filled with Spirit we are able to become creative, lively, and free.**

**We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ,
A community where we find companions
And courage for the struggles of life,
Where we grow in our understanding of faith,
Through worship, prayer, nurture, and service.**

**We believe that God has a use for us in this time and place,
That even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
We are called to be instruments of God's peace.**

**We believe in living, hoping, laughing, and enjoying the good of the earth;
We believe that people can change,
and God keeps pulling us to life and to a new world of joy and peace.**

Amen

Rev. Dr. Constance M. Baugh is a Presbyterian minister who wrote this affirmation for a prison ministry. It was used in the service of Holy Communion to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood in the Episcopal Church. Used by permission.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power. Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day. Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of insight, help this assembly lift up the unique gifts of each person who enters, no matter their physical capacity, cognitive ability, or sensory need. Help us to be creative and brave in making our facilities and our ministries accessible to all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of insight, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints. Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray...

**C: Holy and generous host,
you set a table where we feast as friends.
Prepare us to witness to your goodness
with every gift you have given us to share,
that all people may know your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever.
Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever.**

Amen.

BLESSING

P: Now is the acceptable time.
Now is the day of salvation.
Holy God,
speaking, spoken, and inspiring,
+ bless you, unbind you,
and send you in love and in peace.

C: Amen.

**SENDING SONG: (hymn # 581)
"You Are Mine"**

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Share the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

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I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened...that you may know the hope to which he has called you... (Ephesians 1:18)

180 Open the Eyes of My Heart

Paul Baloche

With feeling ♩ = 112

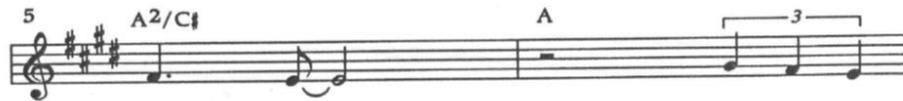
CHORUS



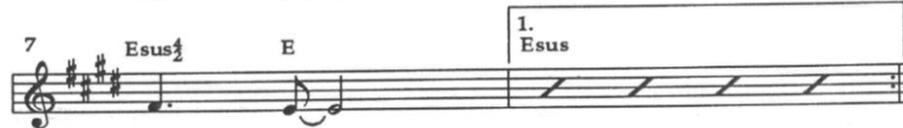
O - pen the eyes ___ of my heart, ___ Lord,



o - pen the eyes ___ of my heart; ___ I want to



see You, ___ I want to



see You. ___



To see You high and lift - ed up, ___



shin - ing in the light of Your glo -

13 C#m/B Bsus B
ry. Pour out— Your pow'r and love—

15 C#m F#m
— as we sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -

17 Bsus (optional repeat to beginning) TAG E2
- ly." — Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -

20 B/D#
- ly.— Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -

22 A2/C#
- ly.— Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho -

24 A Esus# E
- ly.— I want to see You.—

26 Esus 4. Esus# E E2
see You.—

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.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

You Are Mine



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom, I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad-ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. *To stanza 2*
 Come and rest in me. *To refrain*
 all will know my name. *To refrain*
 up, now walk and live! *To refrain*



Refrain
 Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine." *To stanzas 3 and 4*

4 "I

Text: David Haas, b. 1957
 Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Haas
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