

- What is grace? How define it? Undeserved love for sinners. When consider sins, Savior, conclusion: grace is nothing less than amazing.

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

⁸ For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.

Amazing Grace, CW 379:1,3

- If see eagle flying, not flapping to stay airborne. Soar through air riding thermal currents that raise, keep up. Picture God uses for life of Christian: on own, w/o support, nosedive ground. But God supports, raises up, so we soar through life, riding winds of grace.

Isaiah 40:28-31 (NIV)

²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹ He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰ Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; ³¹ but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

On Eagles' Wings, CW 440:1,3

- Author Joseph Scriven knew trouble. At 25, 1st fiancé died night before wedding. Ireland to Canada (1800s). 2nd also. Mother suffered painful illness, took life. Poem; hymn. Reminds us (Jesus reminds us): when we have troubles, sadnesses (all do!), where turn? Take to Lord in prayer.

Matthew 7:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus, CW 411:1,2

- Last week, Ref, PDW, Rom 3. Reminded: Luther translated vs. 28 to German, added “alone.” Criticized for adding. Added to emphasize that works, deeds can never justify, put into right with God. No, justified, declared innocent, forgiven, by faith alone, apart from works of law. Hallmark of Lutheranism: saved by grace alone; blessings come through faith alone; found in Scripture alone; salvation in Christ alone.

Romans 3:21-24, 28 (NIV)

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus... ²⁸ For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

In Christ Alone, CWS 752:1,3

- “King is coming!” If lived in medieval city, heard message, you’d clear streets, get city ready. King is coming, will ride victoriously through streets; people bow down to honor him. He’s king.
- We have king, too. Doesn’t ride through streets of city before subjects on bended knee. How does king Jesus come? Came (baby); comes (W&S); will come (Last Day). That’s how King of Glory.

Psalm 24:7-10 (NIV)

⁷ *Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.* ⁸ *Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.* ⁹ *Lift up your heads, you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.* ¹⁰ *Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty— he is the King of glory.*

The King of Glory Comes, CW 363:1,4

- Most famous hymn of Luth. Wrote hymn based on Ps 46. Story told how when discouraged, often invite friends, colleagues, “Come, let us sing the 46th Psalm.” Because proclaims powerful message: God is refuge, strength, fortress, always with us, so we need not fear. In 500 years since written, “Battle Hymn of Reformation” has given comfort and encouragement to countless Lutherans across world. So let me read from Ps 46. Then, “Come, let us sing the 46th Psalm.”

Psalm 46:1-3, 11 (NIV)

¹ *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.* ² *Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,* ³ *though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.*

¹¹ *The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, CW 200:1