

Tales From the Vineyard - Part 1

The Last Hour

A Tale of Amazing Grace



AS WE GATHER

Late in His ministry, Jesus tells a trilogy of tales about working in a vineyard. Jesus compares God's Kingdom to a vineyard which is in need of faithful workers. Today's tale tells us about God's incredible generosity and His amazing grace!

571 God Loved the World So That He Gave

sts. 1-4



1 God loved the world so that He gave His on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, Who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; His Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son For - gives all



Son the lost to save, That all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; All then who trust in
sav - ing grace is nigh; His Spir - it in the
sins which you have done; And, jus - ti - fied by



Him be - lieve Should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Him a - lone Are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares How we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood, Your Bap - tism grants the high - est good.

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opffer, c. 1778, Stettin; tr. August Crull, 1845-1923, alt.
Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93
Text and tune: Public domain

+ INVOCATION +

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

People: Amen.

+ CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION +

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. *1st John 1:8-9*

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

OPENING SCRIPTURES

God's Vineyard

Pastor: The Kingdom of Heaven is like a Landowner who went early in the morning,

People: To hire workers for His vineyard. *Matthew 20:1*

Pastor: He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it,

People: And built a watchtower. *Matthew 21:33*

Pastor: When he saw others standing around, doing nothing, He said,

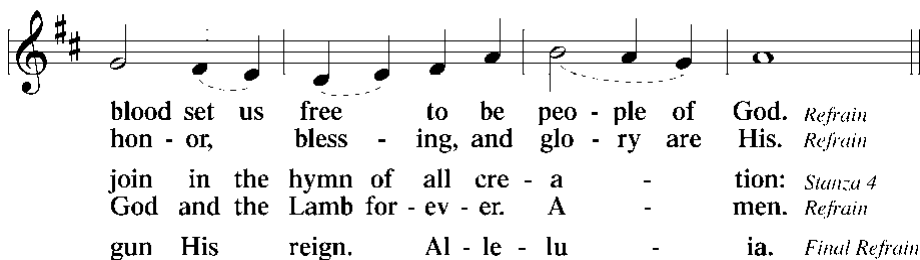
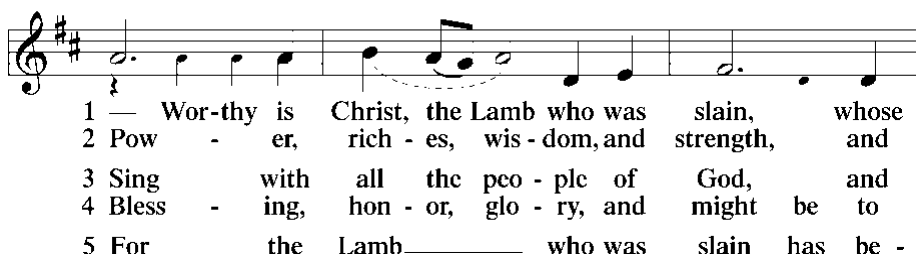
People: You also go, and work in my vineyard. *Matthew 20:3-4*

Pastor: Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."

People: Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His fields. *Matt. 9:35-36*

HYMN OF PRAISE This is the Feast

LSB 155



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

(God's ways are not our ways.)

⁶“Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalms 103:8-12

⁸The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.

¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

¹²as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE EPISTLE

Ephesians 2:1-10

(God's amazing grace.)

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

LSB 156

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

(The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th Chapter

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers

for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' ⁷They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.' ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.' ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' ¹³But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?' ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?' ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father

Almighty.

From thence 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

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

566 By Grace I'm Saved

sts. 1-3, 6



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
 3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
 6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing; In Je - sus' prom - ise



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
 have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
 bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
 I re - joice; For though I know my heart's con - di - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
 Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
 That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
 I al - so know my Sav - ior's voice. My heart is glad, all



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
 sins a - lone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
 grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
 grief has flown Since I am saved by grace a - lone.

Text: Christian Ludwig Scheidt, 1709-61; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.
 Tune: Cornelius Heinrich Dretzel, 1697-1775
 Text and tune: Public domain

THE SERMON

THE OFFERING *(Offering plates are located in the back of the church.)*

OFFERING HYMN 782 Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings

sts. 1, ref, 4

1 Gra - cious God, You send great bless - ings
△ 4 Heav'n - ly Fa - ther, may our car - ing

New each morn - ing all our days. For Your mer - cies
Bear the im - print of Your grace; With the Son and

nev - er end - ing, For Your love we of - fer praise.
Ho - ly Spir - it, Praise be Yours in ev - 'ry place!

Refrain

Lord, we pray that we, Your peo - ple Who Your gifts un - num - bered claim,

Through the shar - ing of Your bless - ings May bring glo - ry to Your name.

Text: Gregory J. Wismar, 1946. Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1825, Cincinnati. Text: © 2004 Gregory J. Wismar. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001353. Tune: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Heavenly Father, we give thanks for Your amazing grace, by which you have made us your own children and given us the free gift of eternal life. Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Grant us Your Spirit that we might be faithful workers in sharing Your grace and forgiveness with all people, Lord in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer

Pastor: We pray for all those in need [especially _____], Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

LSB 161

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

THE DISTRIBUTION

570 Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,
blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to
Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

**5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown, Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68
Text and tune: Public domain

611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed His
 2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
 3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Balm to heal the
 4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
 5 O my Sav - ior, help af - ford By Your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
 heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
 wound - ed heart, Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
 all to me; All my wants to Him are known,
 and Your Word! When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
 Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty! Love that found me—
 Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
 All my sor - rows are His own. He sus - tains the
 Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am His, and He is mine.
 won - drous thought! Found me when I sought Him not.
 walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
 hid - den life Safe with Him from earth - ly strife.
 need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

Text: William McComb, 1793–1873, alt.
 Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820–1901
 Text and tune: Public domain

850 God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple
 2 Lo, the hosts of e - vil round us Scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure Your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; Bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;
 sail His ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 Your con - trol; Shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion

Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom,
 Free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
 Rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this
 grant us cour - age For the liv - ing of these
 grant us cour - age Lest we miss Your king - dom's
 grant us cour - age, Serv - ing You whom we a -

hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, For the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, Lest we miss Your king - dom's goal.
 dore, Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878-1969 Tune: John Hughes, 1873-1932. Text and tune: Public domain

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE – Thank the Lord

LSB 164



C Thank the Lord and sing His praise; tell ev-'ry-one what He has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and proud-ly bear His name.



He re-calls His prom-is - es and leads His peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

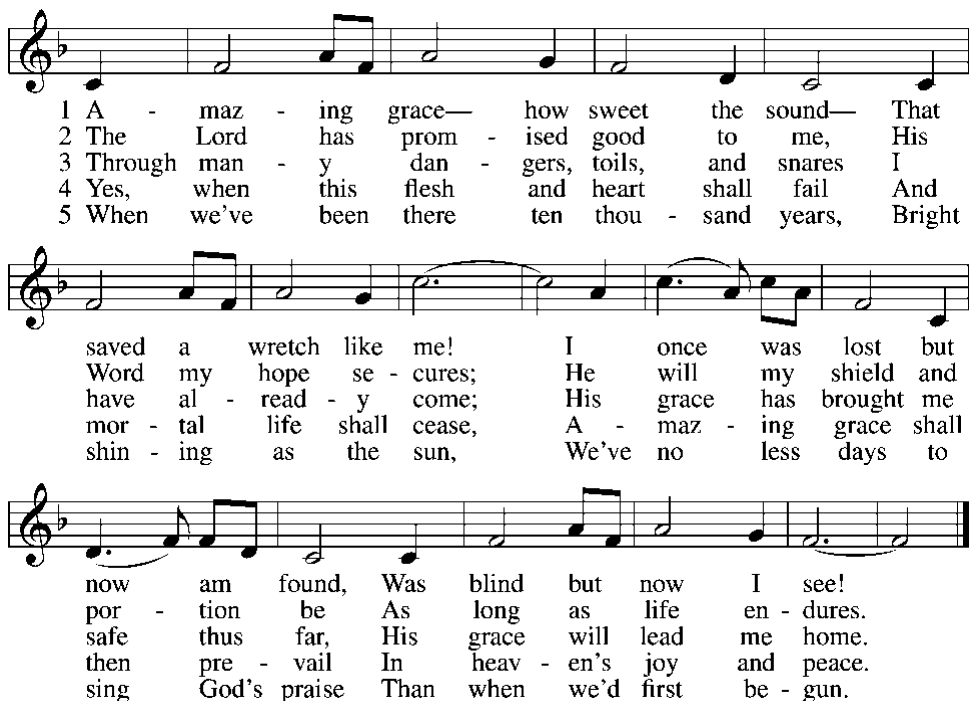
BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: Amen.

744 Amazing Grace

sts. 1–5



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 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright

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; His grace has brought me
 mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
 shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to

now am found, Was blind but now I see!
 por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
 safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
 then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
 sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 5): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, 1790, Richmond
 Tune: Columbian Harmony, 1829, Cincinnati
 Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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**Sermon Series
for September**



Tales From the Vineyard

Sep. 12-13

The Last Hour

A Tale of Amazing Grace

Matt. 20

Sep. 19-20

The Two Sons

A Tale About "Walking the Walk"

Matt. 21

Sep. 26-27

The Wicked Tenants

A Tale of Mystery & Murder

Matt. 21

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO SERVE

Organ and Piano: Katie Cobert

Song Leaders: Sat: Alex Barrows

Sun: Emma & Eli Schroeder

Camera: Sat: Ken Gorski

Sun: Emma Schroeder

PowerPoint: Sat: Douglas Larson

Sun: Izzy Kershaw

Lay Assistant: Sat: Adam Schroeder

Sun: Gil Linenberger