

Sunday, April 14, 2024, 11:15am

Amazingly More

Third Sunday of Easter



Amazingly More

Amazing is a commonly used word that has a rich history.

It came into common usage in the 14th century as a variant of the older root word “amasod”, which meant dazed, confounded, or overwhelmed with sudden surprise or wonder.

The word “amazing” shows up several times in hymns, from describing the action of God in the birth of Jesus as love amazing, to bringing to our hearts and minds that in His suffering to pay the price of our sins, our Lord showed amazing pity.

Two other hymns refer to the amazing grace of God, and in another hymn, the author of the text rejoices that God has done amazing things to me.

The Season of Easter is a time to be truly amazed and filled with the praise of our amazing Lord!

Opening Song of Praise

P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: This is the day that the Lord has made,

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P: Jesus being raised from the dead will never die again,

C: death no longer has dominion over Him.

P: Jesus has risen from the dead.

C: God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

P: He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands,

C: He has put all things under His feet.

P: We confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C: Almighty God, maker of all things, judge of all people, I admit and confess my sinfulness. I am by nature sinful, and I have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful child. I have turned away from You in my thinking, speaking, and doing. I have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. I repent and am truly sorry for my sins. Have mercy on me, gracious Father. Forgive me all that is past, blot out my sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct my life so that I serve You in true faithfulness, through Jesus Christ, my Lord.

P: God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Jesus, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed!

C: Amen.

P: In Your presence there is fullness of joy, at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

C: I will extol You, O Lord, for You have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

P: O Lord my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.

C: O Lord, You have brought up my soul from Sheol, You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

P: Sing praises to the Lord, O you His saints, and give thanks to His Holy name.

C: For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

C: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P: Together, we pray,

C: Living Lord, You have commanded us to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations. To fulfill this command, we ask You to clothe us with the power from on high, Your Holy Spirit, that we may carry the amazing message of Your resurrection to the ends of the earth; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time

Acts 3:11–21 [Sermon Text]

While the lame man who was now healed clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when He had decided to release Him. But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And His name—by faith in His name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all. "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets long ago."

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

1 John 3:1–7

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure. Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that He appeared to take away sins, and in Him there is no sin. No one who abides in Him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen Him or known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as He is righteous.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

As they were talking about these things, Jesus Himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Touch Me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish, and He took it and ate before them. Then He said to them, "These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Praise Song

The Sermon *Amazingly More*

The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes

The Prayers of His Children

P: Lord, in Your mercy. C: Hear our prayer.

P: God, hear our prayers in the name of Jesus, **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.**

God's Benediction

Sending Praise Song