



PALM/PASSION  
SUNDAY  
Peter



MAUNDY  
THURSDAY  
John



GOOD  
FRIDAY  
The Penitent Thief



EASTER  
SUNDAY  
Mary Magdalene

# AMAZING *grace* HOLY WEEK

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# AMAZING *grace* HOLY WEEK

## ABOUT “AMAZING GRACE– HOLY WEEK”

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the writing of “Amazing Grace,” this worship series for Holy Week by theologian Michael Hoy ties the words of the beloved song to our lives today as Christ’s disciples. Those in the Bible who experienced the amazing grace of God during Holy Week help us to realize that though we once were lost in sin, we now have been found by Jesus, and though we once were blind to God’s mercy, we now can see his love at work in us through our Savior’s death and resurrection.

For each service, the series contains: complete order of service • dialogue sermon for two readers (the pastor and the character of the service) • children’s sermon • prayers • music for the accompanist • PowerPoint documents • notices for promotion

## ORDERING INFORMATION

Additional resources are available from Creative Communications for the Parish. Contact us for current pricing and availability. Call us at 1-800-325-9414. Or visit our website:

[www.creativecommunications.com](http://www.creativecommunications.com).

# AMAZING *grace* HOLY WEEK

## MAUNDY THURSDAY: JOHN

### ORDER OF SERVICE

*In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 1 Corinthians 11:25*

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suff'ring, shame or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,  
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

Call to Worship.....Psalm 116:1-9, 12-13

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

**C Amen.**

**P** I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

**C Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

**P** The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

**C Then I called on the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!”**

**P** Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

**C The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.**

**P** Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

**C For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living ...**

**P** What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?

**C I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD!**

#### Confession and Absolution

**P** John and his brother James were Jesus’ disciples. They believed in their Lord and Savior, but they sought the glory of the kingdom and hoped to place themselves above others when Jesus ruled in glory. There would be glory to come, but the cross and suffering would come first. Let us repent of our own prideful, glory-seeking ways, confessing our sins and asking for forgiveness.

**C Almighty God, we confess that we often seek glory for ourselves and our own plans. We are not always willing to suffer for Jesus’ sake. We want attention for ourselves instead of seeking to glorify our Lord. Seeking to shun suffering and loss, we do not live in humble service to others in Jesus’ name. We look to our own interests and needs ahead of the needs of others. Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

**P** God looked on us in grace and sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus laid aside his glory to be born among us, to live in humility and to suffer and die for the sins of the world. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy

Spirit. Amen. Empowered by his grace and forgiveness, we follow in our Lord's steps as we live in love and humble service in his name.

**C What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD!**

Prayer of the Day

Children's Sermon

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

Old Testament Reading ..... Jeremiah 31:31-34

Epistle Reading ..... 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel Reading..... Mark 10:35-45

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
No merit of my own I claim but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
In ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

Sermon

His oath, his covenant and blood support me in the raging flood;  
When ev'ry earthly prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

Apostles' Creed

**C 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.**

## Offering

### Prayers

**P** Lord Jesus, your followers sought personal glory, looking ahead to the triumph of your kingdom. That glory was sure to come, but they did not understand that a cross stood in the way on that path to glory. For us, you willingly laid aside your glory and humbly took up the cross for the sake of our salvation. Gracious Lord,

**C** **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord Jesus, your disciple John received your grace and forgiveness. You entrusted him with the care of your mother Mary. Give us grace to care for one another and to help the sick and suffering among us. We bring their names before you now in prayer .... Have mercy on them and heal them according to your will. Gracious Lord,

**C** **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord Jesus, your disciple James suffered martyrdom for the sake of your name. John may have suffered exile as an apostle and witness for you. When we are ridiculed or held in contempt because we believe in you, by the power of your Spirit, help us to bear the cross and to remain steadfast in faith and witness. Gracious Lord,

**C** **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord Jesus, we do not deserve the grace we have received. You have given us the gift of your body and blood, given and shed for forgiveness of our sins. We remember your suffering and death and give thanks for your holy Supper. Gracious Lord,

**C** **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

**P** Lord Jesus, your disciples suffered as faithful witnesses for you. Now in your eternal kingdom, they experience in all of its fullness the glory that you have won for them. Lead us to be faithful witnesses for you as we proclaim your death and resurrection until you return in glory as King and Judge of all. Gracious Lord,

**C** **Have mercy on us and hear our prayer.**

**P** Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

### Holy Communion

Benediction (Mark 10:42-45; 2 Thessalonians 3:16)

**P** You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all.

**C** **For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.**

**P** Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

**C** **Amen.**

“Come, follow me,” the Savior spake, “all in my way abiding;  
Deny yourselves, the world forsake, obey my call and guiding.  
O bear the cross, whate’er betide, take my example for your guide.”

“My heart abounds in lowliness, my soul with love is glowing;  
And gracious words my lips express, with meekness overflowing.  
My heart, my mind, my strength, my all, to God I yield, on him I call.”

Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, and take the cross appointed  
And, firmly clinging to his Word, in suff’ring be undaunted.  
For those who bear the battle’s strain the crown of heav’nly life obtain.

The Stripping of the Altar

*(Leave in silence.)*



# AMAZING grace HOLY WEEK

## MAUNDY THURSDAY: JOHN

### COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

[shutterstock.com/image-photo/chalice-wine-bread-background-copy-space-148764716](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/chalice-wine-bread-background-copy-space-148764716)

- This **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

*In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." 1 Corinthians 11:25*

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Gethsemane 77 77 77, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Go to dark Gethsemane, all who feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see, watch with him one bitter hour;  
Turn not from his griefs away; learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

Follow to the judgment hall, view the Lord of life arraigned;  
Oh, the wormwood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!  
Shun not suffering, shame or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.

Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb; there, adoring at his feet,  
Mark that miracle of time, God's own sacrifice complete.  
"It is finished!" hear him cry; learn from Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb where they laid his breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom. Who has taken him away?  
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Savior, teach us so to rise.

- The **Call to Worship** (from Psalm 116:1-9, 12-13) is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

**C** Amen.

**P** I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

**C** Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

**P** The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

**C** Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul!"

**P** Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

**C** The LORD preserves the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me.

**P** Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

**C For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling; I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living ...**

**P** What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?

**C I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD!**

- The **Confession and Absolution** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** John and his brother James were Jesus' disciples. They believed in their Lord and Savior, but they sought the glory of the kingdom and hoped to place themselves above others when Jesus ruled in glory. There would be glory to come, but the cross and suffering would come first. Let us repent of our own prideful, glory-seeking ways, confessing our sins and asking for forgiveness.

**C Almighty God, we confess that we often seek glory for ourselves and our own plans. We are not always willing to suffer for Jesus' sake. We want attention for ourselves instead of seeking to glorify our Lord. Seeking to shun suffering and loss, we do not live in humble service to others in Jesus' name. We look to our own interests and needs ahead of the needs of others. Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

**P** God looked on us in grace and sent his Son to be our Savior. Jesus laid aside his glory to be born among us, to live in humility and to suffer and die for the sins of the world. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Empowered by his grace and forgiveness, we follow in our Lord's steps as we live in love and humble service in his name.

**C What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD!**

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** Almighty God, at one time John and his brother wanted to call down fire from heaven on an unbelieving village. Jesus called them "Sons of Thunder." On another day they asked Jesus for the honor of sitting to the left and right of his throne when he ruled in his kingdom. They sought glory but did not understand what would come first. The glory of the kingdom would come, but the cross would come first. Jesus first suffered and died and then rose in glory. The day would come when John and James, too, would suffer for the sake of their faith in Jesus. The Lord Jesus has given us his own body and blood, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins. We pray that you would fill us with humility and strength, nourished by his Holy Supper for a life of faith and witness. When we are called to suffer for sake of Jesus' name, give us courage to be steadfast in faith. Lead us to live in repentant humility as during this Lenten season we follow our Lord's final steps to the cross. Hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen..

- The **Children’s Sermon** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ We’re going to take a minute right now to stand up and form a line. Who wants to be first in line? (*Choose someone to be first in line. Have the rest of the children stand in line for a few moments.*) Well, we have a good line, but we are not really going anywhere. Let’s all sit down again. (*Have children sit down again.*) When I asked who wanted to be first, quite a few of you raised your hands. We like to be first in line. Sometimes we like to be first in everything!

James and John, two of Jesus’ disciples, wanted to be first too! They asked Jesus if they could sit on thrones, one on each side of Jesus, when he ruled as King. The other disciples were angry that James and John asked for that kind of special treatment—maybe they wanted to be first. Jesus told them that God the Father would decide who sits in those places of honor. But something else had to happen first. It was not time yet for Jesus to rule as King in his glorious kingdom. Before he ruled as King, he had to be crowned with thorns. He had to suffer and die on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven.

Jesus showed his grace—that is, divine favor they did not deserve—to James and John. He forgave James and John for wanting to be first. They became leaders in the church. When Jesus was on the cross, he asked John to take care of his mother Mary. Jesus shows his grace to us. He forgives our sins. We follow Jesus when we love others, when we are kind and caring to them. We want to put others first instead of putting ourselves first!

Jesus is the Son of God. He certainly is first in everything! But when he lived on earth he did not try to be first. Jesus said that he came, not so other people could serve him but so he could serve others. He came to die on the cross for our sins. We believe in Jesus our Savior, and one day we will live with him in glory!

Let’s pray: Jesus, thank you for putting us first and dying on the cross for us. Help us to put others first. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune New Britain CM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.

- The **Old Testament Reading**, Jeremiah 31:31-34, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

- The **Epistle Reading**, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Mark 10:35-45, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What do you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?” And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant at James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Magdalen LM and refrain, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
 No merit of my own I claim but wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
 On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace;  
 In ev'ry high and stormy gale my anchor holds within the veil.  
 On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.

- The **Sermon**, “Grace for the Loveless,” is delivered by the pastor **P** as narrator and another reader **R** as John, who is carrying a basin and towel:

**P** On the night of our Lord's betrayal, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment: “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” This new commandment is at the heart of the meaning of Maundy Thursday. Our Lord was about gracing us with love. And in all the serving humility that comes with such love, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, and encouraged them to be servants of that humble love for the world.

Of all the evangelists, John especially shares this important message of God's gracious love.

**R** *Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.*

**P** John was not always so sensitive to the importance of love. John and his brother, James, were fisherman with their father, Zebedee. They would be among the first to be called as Jesus' disciples. But Jesus gave them another name—“Sons of Thunder.” It is a commentary on their strong and stormy temperament. And they often spoke and acted out that character of zeal and wrath.

On one occasion, they zealously put themselves ahead of the other followers of Jesus as they approached their Lord with a firm request.

**R** *Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.... Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.*

**P** But Jesus chose this as a teaching occasion about the path he must go. “You do not know what you are asking,” Jesus said. “Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” But they still maintained their audacity.

**R** *We are able.*

Ⓟ Jesus did not dispute their boldness. Indeed, it would be a useful trait in their faith in years to come. But neither did he dismiss the path to the cross—not only for himself but also for them as they would learn to carry their own crosses. So Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.” The other disciples were aggravated with James and John, but for all the wrong reasons. They thought that these two had beat them to the punch in the pursuit of greatness. They all had yet to learn that true greatness comes in the service of love. It would take the maturation of their faith to understand where Jesus was leading them and to grasp the joy of the grace that comes in loving. “Just as I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” John was loved by his Lord, even when he was himself clueless about that love.

But John was also loveless, harsh, and quick to judgment, even excluding others as if they did not belong to the company of Jesus. This behavior would rear its ugly head on one occasion.

Ⓡ *Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he does not follow with us.*

Ⓟ Again, he had to be corrected. Jesus said to John, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterwards to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us.”

Yet no sooner had Jesus said these things than another storm cloud from John would burst. While Jesus had set his path to go toward Jerusalem and to the cross, they would pass through a village of Samaritans. These Samaritans, however, did not welcome Jesus in their midst. John would join his brother James in condemning these Samaritans to the wrath of God.

Ⓡ *Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?*

Ⓟ Jesus would rebuke them. He would teach them again about how his whole mission has been about extending the grace of love to all, even to those who are enemies. The ugliness of anger, wrath, and even violence has haunted us in all our lives, and has become far too common in our own time. Its only remedy is the path of love that Jesus followed. Only through the cross and the resurrection does it become clear that love has no bounds and should never be restricted from bringing its healing grace.

And so on this night where Jesus’ betrayal is at hand, he extends love to his disciples. He washes their feet. He shares in a meal. And he promises them that, even when the dark storm clouds of judgment and persecution descend upon them, love is what wins. The grace of his love is stronger than all of these. “Just as I have loved you, so you also should love one another.”

We do not know for sure whether John is also the beloved disciple. But what we do know is that John came to a greater faith in Jesus’ love and its gracious power for all. So in the Gospel of