

Amazing Grace vs 1-3

UMH 378

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.

T'was grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

¹ Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. ² Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them." ³ So He told them this parable, saying, ¹¹ And He said, "A man had two sons. ¹² "The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me.' So he divided his wealth between them. ¹³ "And not many days later, the younger son gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living. ¹⁴ "Now when he had spent everything, a severe famine occurred in that country, and he began to be impoverished. ¹⁵ "So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ "And he would have gladly filled his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him. ¹⁷ "But when he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger! ¹⁸ 'I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.'" ²⁰ "So he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² "But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet; ²³ and bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.' And they began to celebrate. ²⁵ "Now his older son was in the field, and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ "And he summoned one of the servants and began inquiring what these things could be. ²⁷ "And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ "But he became angry and was not willing to go in; and his father came out and began pleading with him. ²⁹ "But he answered and said to his father, 'Look! For so many years I have been serving you and I have never neglected a command of yours; and yet you have never given me a young goat, so that I might celebrate with my friends; ³⁰ but when this son of yours came, who has devoured your wealth with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.' ³¹ "And he said to him, 'Son, you have always been with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² 'But we had to celebrate and rejoice, for this brother of yours was dead and has begun to live, and was lost and has been found.'"

This Is a Day of New Beginnings vs 1-4

UMH 383

This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,
God's mighty spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference,
as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the spirit's daring,
step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.