

# Third Sunday in Lent

March 7, 2021

10 am

**Prelude**

Meditation on *This is My Father's World*  
~Charles Callahan

Adam O'Dell

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship** (*responsively*)

(inspired by Psalm 23)

We gather together to worship God,  
the Shepherd of our souls—  
**the one who has created us,**  
**who sustains us,**  
**who redeems us,**  
**who walks beside us in good times and bad,**  
**and who calls us to follow.**

Let us remember together God's goodness and mercy,  
and let us sing God's faithfulness together!

**Opening Hymn**

*Never Once*

NSC Praise Band

Jason Ingram | Matt Redman | Tim Wanstall

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**Verse 1**

Standing on this mountaintop, looking just how far we've come  
Knowing that for ev'ry step You were with us

**Verse 2**

Kneeling on this battleground, seeing just how much You've done  
Knowing ev'ry victory was Your pow'r in us

**Chorus 1**

Scars and struggles on the way, but with joy our hearts can say  
Yes, our hearts can say  
Never once did we ever walk alone, never once did You leave us on our own  
You are faithful, God, You are faithful

**Verse 2**

Kneeling on this battleground, seeing just how much You've done  
Knowing ev'ry victory was Your pow'r in us

**Chorus 2**

Scars and struggles on the way, but with joy our hearts can say  
Never once did we ever walk alone  
Carried by Your constant grace, held within Your perfect peace  
Never once, no we never walk alone

Never once did we ever walk alone, never once did You leave us on our own  
You are faithful, God, You are faithful

Ev'ry step we are breathing in Your grace  
Evermore we'll be breathing out Your praise  
You are faithful, God, You are faithful (x2)

### Ending

You are faithful, God, You are faithful (x4)

### Prayer of Confession

(unison)

Gracious and loving God,  
You have faithfully walked with us through every season and circumstance  
and have so generously provided for our needs.  
When we needed a Savior, You offered the gift of Your very self—  
a gift generous beyond our deserving, yet so freely given.  
We confess that we struggle with the concept of Your grace.  
We deceive ourselves, believing that we must earn our way into Your heart.  
We confess, too, that we have not always lived as people  
created in Your image.  
We have been slow to extend mercy,  
and we have harbored anger and resentment.  
Forgive us for withholding love from those we have deemed unworthy.  
Help us to live secure in Your grace, confident of Your generosity.  
Make us as generous to others as You have been to us.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*All continue to pray in silence.*

### Assurance of Pardon

### A Message for Young Disciples

Cara Norris

## Proclamation and Response

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### Gospel Readings

**Matthew 20:1-15 (NRSV)**

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. <sup>2</sup> After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. <sup>3</sup> When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; <sup>4</sup> and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. <sup>5</sup> When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. <sup>6</sup> And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' <sup>7</sup>

They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' <sup>8</sup> When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' <sup>9</sup> When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. <sup>10</sup> Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. <sup>11</sup> And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, <sup>12</sup> saying, '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.' <sup>13</sup> But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?' <sup>14</sup> Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. <sup>15</sup> Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

**Leader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

**Message**

*The Good & Beautiful God: God is Generous*

Pastor Jen Eschliman

**Prayers of the People**

**Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God**

**Offertory**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Thanksgiving and Holy Communion**

**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. Amen.

**Closing Song**

*Grace Greater Than Our Sin*

UMH #365

(vv. 1-2, 4)

Julia Johnston | Daniel B. Towner

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**Verse 1**

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount out-poured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

**Refrain**

Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin!

**Verse 2**

Sin and despair like the sea-waves cold, threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
Grace that is greater, yes, grace untold, points to the Refuge, the mighty cross.

**[Refrain]**

**Verse 3**

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, freely bestowed on all who believe!  
All who are longing to see His face, will you this moment His grace receive?

**[Refrain]**

## **Sending Forth**

**Announcements**

**Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction**

**Spring Forward – March 14th**

**Holy Week Schedule**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Partita on *Amazing Grace*  
~ Peter Niedmann

Adam O'Dell