

## Trinity 3 28th June 2020

### Opening Acclamation

**O God beyond all praising,  
we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing  
that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder  
at every gift you send,  
at blessings without number  
and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you  
and wait upon your word,  
we honour and adore you,  
our great and mighty Lord.**

*Michael Perry*

Grace, mercy and peace  
from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you  
**and also with you.**

### Penitential Rite

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ  
to save us from our sins,  
to be our advocate in heaven,  
and to bring us to eternal life.  
Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,  
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments  
and to live in love and peace with all.

**Most merciful God,  
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
we confess that we have sinned  
in thought, word and deed.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart.  
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
In your mercy  
forgive what we have been,  
help us to amend what we are,  
and direct what we shall be;  
that we may do justly,  
love mercy,  
and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

May the God of love and power  
forgive us and free us from our sins,  
heal and strengthen us by his Spirit,  
and raise us to new life in Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect

Almighty God,  
you have broken the tyranny of sin  
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts  
whereby we call you Father:  
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service,  
that we and all creation may be brought  
to the glorious liberty of the children of God;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen

## **Readings**

Romans 6.12-23. New International Version

**12** Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. **13** Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. **14** For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. **15** What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! **16** Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin,

which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.

18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

**19** I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.

**20** When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. **21** What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! **22** But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**Response:**

**On the mount of crucifixion  
Fountains opened deep and wide  
Through the floodgates of God's mercy  
Flowed a vast and gracious tide  
Grace and love, like mighty rivers  
Poured incessant from above  
And Heaven's peace and perfect justice  
Kissed a guilty world in love**

*John Andrew Schreiner / Robert Lowry / William Rees*

## **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, Alleluia.**

**I am the way the truth and the life, says the Lord.**

**No one comes to the Father except through me.**

**Alleluia**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Matthew 10.40-42**

**40** “Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

**41** Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person’s reward.

**42** And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

I have two reasons for tackling the first reading today. Firstly, because though I don’t often preach about “Sin” it is something we should think about from time to time.

Secondly, someone reading this with me recently - reacted quite strongly to the wording that seems to link slavery and God - so let’s have a look at this passage this morning.

Paul says “do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires”

Sin often looks good at first in the moment of temptation - but it pulls and seduces and lures until what did look so good at first, finally enslaves. Sin promises pleasure and freedom. But in the end the alcoholic becomes enslaved to the next drink, the glutton becomes enslaved to the next meal, the proud man becomes enslaved to the praise of other people, and the gossip becomes enslaved to searching out and sharing that next sordid bit of information about someone else.

Often sin promises to make us popular with others... it promises acceptance; but delivers secrecy and shame. We might hope that “What happens in “Vegas stays in Vegas” or what happens in “Benidorm stays in Benidorm” (neither of which is actually true!)... But those same excesses/ sins that promised popularity and acceptance produce shame instead, and unwanted and even crippling consequences that follow us wherever we go.

The casual relationships that promised companionship but delivered STD’s and unplanned pregnancies.

The drink that promised a relaxed fun evening but delivered DUI’s and liver disease.

The pornography that promised pleasure but delivered a broken marriage

People sin because sin seems to offer a really enjoyable, fun life. But Paul tells us twice in this passage that sin does exactly the opposite – it robs us of life and results in death (v21 and 23)

We may begin to sin in free choice - but words like inclination progress to craving, compulsion, obsession, addiction, dependence and even bondage. Every time we choose to sin we lose a bit more of ourselves, we die a little bit. And sin's plan for us is perversion, corruption, death and destruction.

But in contrast, Jesus' words are faithful and true and life giving and in Jesus God DELIVERS - and always delivers - what he promises. To serve God "under grace" is a liberating experience, as different as can be from slavery to sin.

When I put my faith in Jesus, he continues to give me the freedom to choose which master I will serve... now, at first - and always and forever.

The truth is that the moment I placed my faith in Jesus, he freed me from that slavery to sin, from old ingrained sinful habits, from old stuck unloving attitudes, from past selfish desires... things which seemed to rule and govern my life... and gave me the ability to become - not his slave or even His servant (although I do choose to serve him) - but his friend, and his brother or sister. And He began making me holy - transforming me to become more and more like Him, and more and more like **the true me** he created me to be.

The very moment that I place my faith in Jesus, I discover that Jesus has already "ransomed, healed, restored and forgiven me". The bible says when I put my faith in Jesus - "I can put on Jesus" and that means that when God looks at my life, He no longer sees my sin, but only the beautiful generous saving grace of his Son at work.

Jesus offers the kind of genuine, permanent acceptance that is far beyond anything that this world can offer.

And unlike sin, which offers the wages of death, God offers eternal life to us as a gift: a gift He freely gives to those who place their trust in Him.

When we make Jesus our free choice in response to his life giving - life promising invitation - then words like growth, healing, wholeness, "new every morning transformation", holiness, freedom, joy, peace, - beginning to live eternal life now - and offering eternal life with God forever - not slave - but son or daughter - and heir - is the journey that takes us on.

It is so clear that Jesus delivers what sin could never deliver: For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

And it is for us to choose . . . to choose Jesus, to choose grace... to choose the way that leads to holiness and eternal life. To choose....

### **Response:**

**All I once held dear, built my life upon  
All this world reveres, and wars to own  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss  
Spent and worthless now, compared to this  
Knowing you, Jesus  
Knowing you, there is no greater thing  
You're my all, you're the best**

**You're my joy, my righteousness  
And I love you, Lord.**

*Graham Kendrick*

## **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,**

**who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.**

**Prayers of intercession - Prepared and led by Dawn Abbatt,  
Church Warden and Lay Leader of Worship (St Mary's)  
(HANDS OF GOD" PRAYERS Taken from Words Worth  
Sharing Website )**

In our prayers today,  
we put all thoughts and worries and hopes  
into the hands of God.  
You may like to hold your own hands  
in front of you as you pray.  
We place into the hands of God  
the life of this church,  
the people around us,  
and those who are not here today.  
We place into the hands of God  
our difficulties and frustrations,  
and our hopes and our worries about the future.  
We place into the hands of God  
the life of the church in all the world,  
all people in the world who bring God's love to others,  
all people who are in danger because they share the love of  
God.  
Loving God, as you have blessed us,  
make us a blessing to your world.  
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We place into the hands of God  
a world that needs peace,  
a world that needs wisdom,  
a world that needs healing.  
We place into the hands of God  
the leaders of every nation,  
the poor of our own and every land,  
those who live in fear,  
and all who hold the lives of others in their hands.  
Loving God,  
You have poured such love into your world.  
Show us how to help make it a more loving place.  
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We place into the hands of God  
our families, our friends, and our neighbours,  
those who live and work in our village,  
in our shops and local businesses,  
those who work from home,  
those who are unemployed,  
Those who are returning to work, or unable to return to work  
because of the Coronavirus.  
and all who pass through the village on their travels.  
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We place into the hands of God  
all those we know who are suffering  
Loving God,  
Bless them with your love and comfort and healing.  
And show us how to care for them.  
Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We place into the hands of God  
all those who have died.

All those we know personally and all those we remember at  
this time.

Loving God,

As you prepared a place for each of them,  
prepare us for our place with you,  
when we will be held in your loving hands for ever.

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,

**Accept these prayers,  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Let's pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in Heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **Notices and Birthdays**

### **The BLESSING and SENDING**

**God of power,  
may the boldness of your Spirit transform us,  
may the gentleness of your Spirit lead us,  
may the gifts of your Spirit equip us  
to serve and worship you  
now and always. Amen.**

*And the blessing.....*

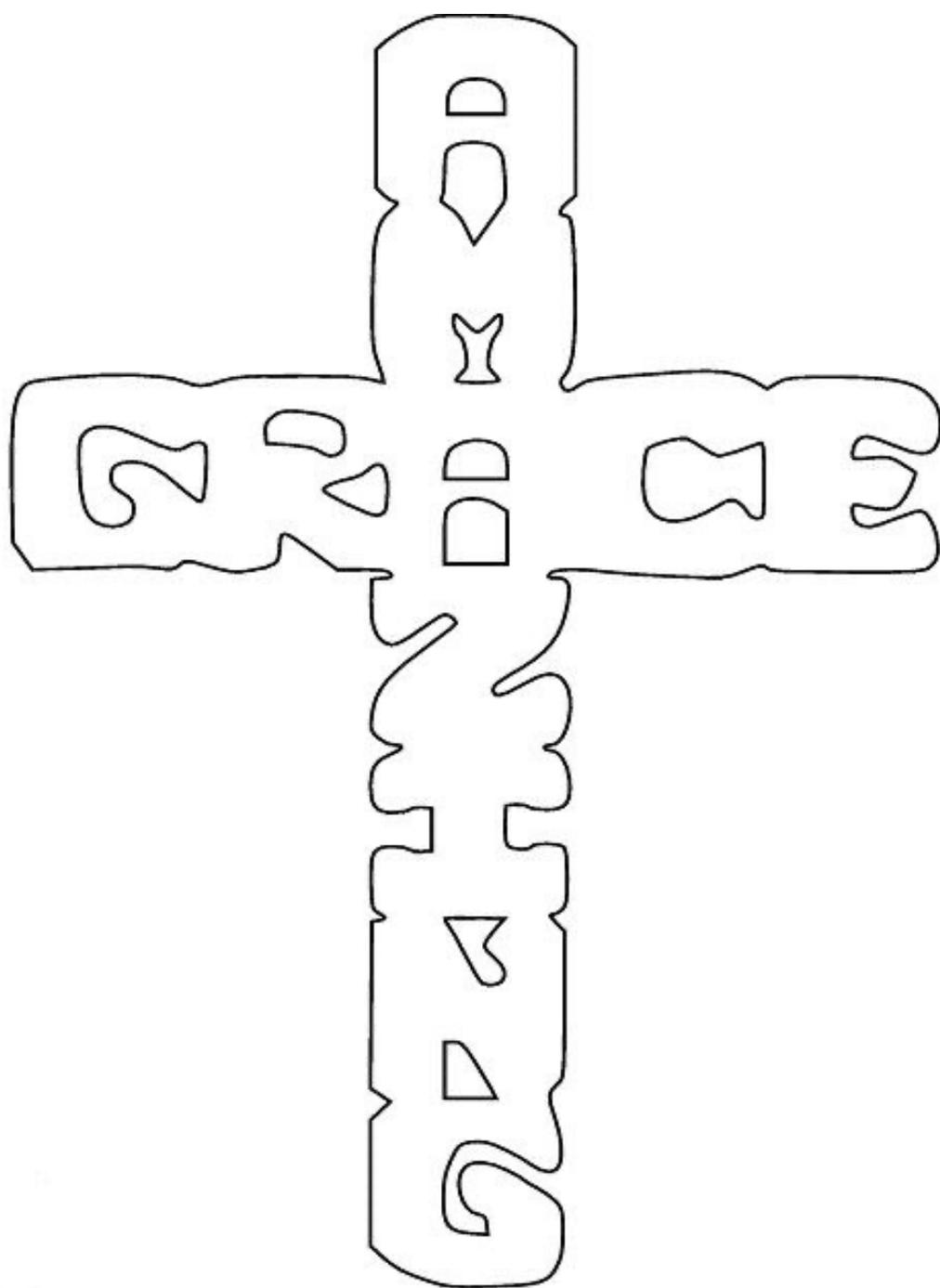
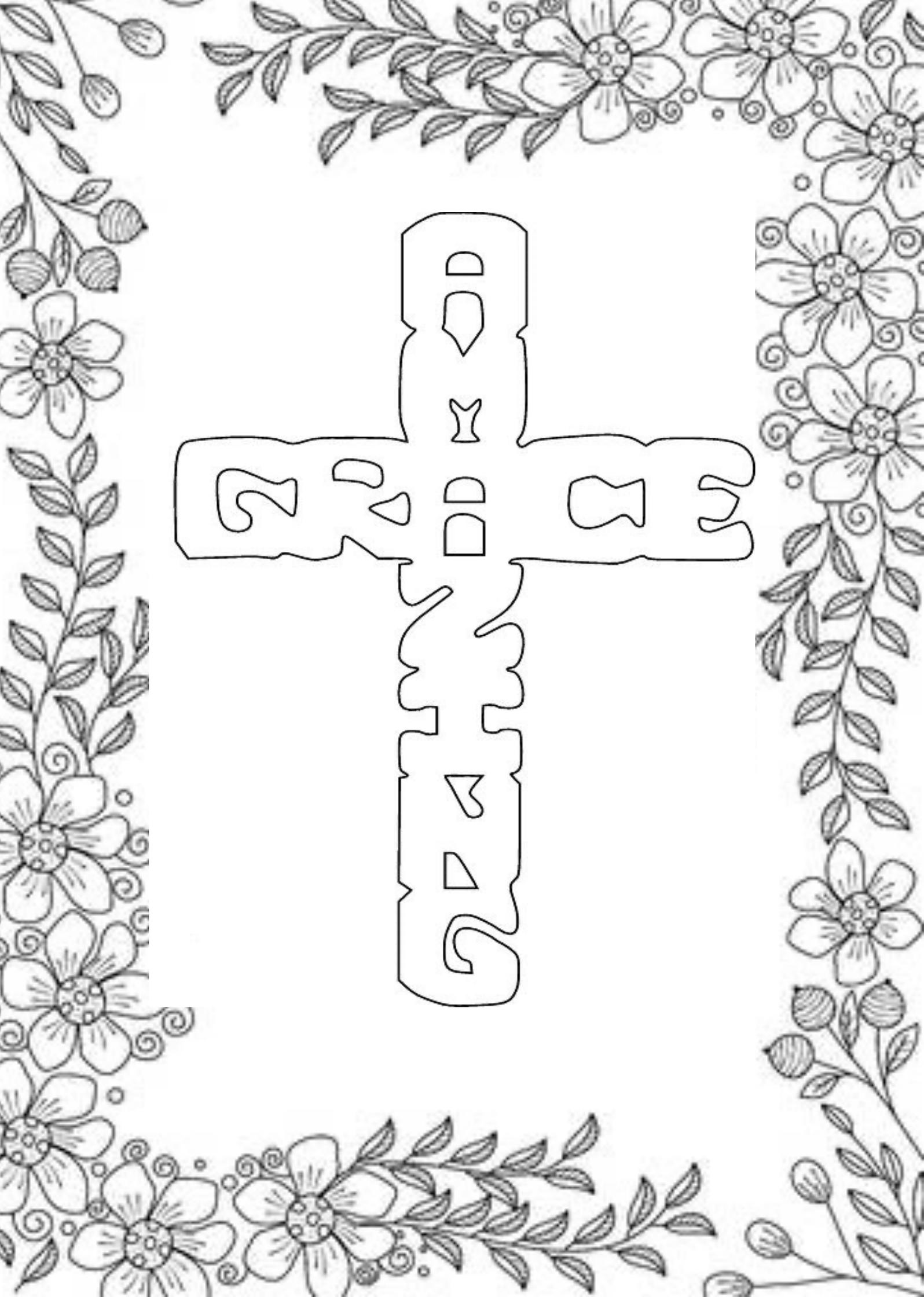
**Go into the world  
to walk in God's light,  
to rejoice in God's love  
and to reflect God's glory. Amen.**

### **Final acclamation (verses 1 and 4)**

**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**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares  
We have already come  
T'was Grace that brought us safe thus far  
And Grace will lead us home**

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Word Search #1

# *Amazing Grace*

## **Verse 1**

*by John Newton*



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.

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