



Title: The Way of Brokenness

March 29, 2020

Worship Guide

Text: 2 Samuel 15:1-12

After this Absalom got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run ahead of him. 2 Absalom used to rise early and stand beside the road into the gate; and when anyone brought a suit before the king for judgment, Absalom would call out and say, "From what city are you?" When the person said, "Your servant is of such and such a tribe in Israel," 3 Absalom would say, "See, your claims are good and right; but there is no one deputed by the king to hear you." 4 Absalom said moreover, "If only I were judge in the land! Then all who had a suit or cause might come to me, and I would give them justice." 5 Whenever people came near to do obeisance to him, he would put out his hand and take hold of them, and kiss them. 6 Thus Absalom did to every Israelite who came to the king for judgment; so Absalom stole the hearts of the people of Israel.

7 At the end of four[a] years Absalom said to the king, "Please let me go to Hebron and pay the vow that I have made to the Lord. 8 For your servant made a vow while I lived at Geshur in Aram: If the Lord will indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will worship the Lord in Hebron." [b] 9 The king said to him, "Go in peace." So he got up, and went to Hebron. 10 But Absalom sent secret messengers throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then shout: Absalom has become king at Hebron!" 11 Two hundred men from Jerusalem went with Absalom; they were invited guests, and they went in their innocence, knowing nothing of the matter. 12 While Absalom was offering the sacrifices, he sent for [c] Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counselor, from his city Giloh. The conspiracy grew in strength, and the people with Absalom kept increasing.

Call to Worship

I will bless the Lord at all times;

God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

O magnify the Lord with me,

and let us exalt God's name together. Let us worship!

Amazing Grace, vs. 1,2

*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.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.*

Call to confession

God has given us a sign showing that love is stronger than death. The sign of the cross points to our exodus from exile, our redemption from bondage to sin. Let us repent, seek God's forgiveness, and enter into new life in Christ. Let us pray...

Confession

Holy One, whose mercy and kindness feed us, we confess our sins and pray for your forgiveness. What terrible suffering we have unleashed. We have used other people without regard for their dignity; we have abused the earth without care for its beauty or concern for future life; we have sought to bargain with you when things don't go our way. God, change us. Put the Spirit of Christ within us that we might grow into mature, faithful disciples, free from the exile that our selfishness imposes.

Assurance

People of God, hope in the Lord! God in Christ has forgiven you.

God has brought us home from exile, redeeming us from all our sin, through Christ who loves us. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Creator of unity, Body of peace, Spirit of community, bind us together around your Word and send us out to do your justice, show your mercy and embody your redeeming love. **For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

Amazing Grace", vs. 3, 4, 5

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

*The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.*

Call to offering

Grateful for God's covenant love and faithfulness, let us bring our tithes and offerings for the work of God's kingdom.

Dedication

Loving and faithful God, we rejoice with thanksgiving for all we have received, especially for the gifts of your protection, presence and provision even when we are in exile. Multiply these gifts, we pray, that the world may more deeply know the fullness of life you offer. Amen.

Sermon Notes

How the message speaks to me:

Questions I have:

Prayer requests: