

351 Amazing Love

Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13

Unison

1. My Lord, what love is this that pays so
 2. And so they watched Him die, de-spised, re-
 3. And now this love of Christ shall flow like

dear-ly; That I, the guilt-y one, may go
 ject-ed; But, O the blood He shed flowed for
 riv-ers; Come wash your guilt a-way, live a

Refrain

free?
 me. A-maz-ing love, O what sac-ri-fice, The Son of God giv'n for
 gain.

me; My debt He pays and my death He dies, That

I might live, that I might live.

TEXT: Graham Kendrick
 MUSIC: Graham Kendrick

AMAZING LOVE
 Irregular meter

St. John's United Church of Christ

P.O. Box 794, 401 N Main Street, Belvidere, IL
61008stjohns401.org stjohsucc401@gmail.com

Pastor: **Rev. Muriel Morley Jahn** **815-544-2977**
 murielmorley@gmail.com
Pastoral Associate: **Beth Carson** **815-979-0473**
Minister of Music: **Mary Albrecht** **224-234-7749**
Choir Director: **Jeanne Anderson** **815-985-2652**
Nursery Attendant: **Hanna Jarvis** **815-914-4718**

WELCOME VISITORS! Thank you for coming! Please sign a pew card to place in the offering plate.

WORSHIP: When reading this bulletin Leader Speaks Plain Font, Everyone Speak Bold Font

✠ **Nursery:** Children are welcome in all aspects of worship. The nursery provides an alternative space so kids and parents can both get what they need from worship. Children are encouraged to check in with their adult before going downstairs with the nursery attendant.

Join us this **EASTERSUNDAY**, April 5th, 2026.
FULFILLING IMAGINATION • JOHN 20:1-18



9 AM Breakfast
9:45AM Kids Egg Hunt
10AM Adult Accessibility Egg Hunt
10:30 AM Service
Please join us!

Hymn #229 "Were you There" (v. 1, 2)
Extinguish Candle

THIRD SHADOW: **Mark 14:53-65**
"Beneath the Cross" **Choir; Vicki Cummings Soloist**
Extinguish Candle

FOURTH SHADOW: **Mark 14:66-72**
Hymn #226 "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded" (v. 1-2)
Extinguish Candle

FIFTH SHADOW: **Mark 15:1-24**
Hymn #224 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (v. 1, 3, 4)
Extinguish Candle

SIXTH SHADOW: **Mark 15:25-39**
"Amazing Love" **(v.1,3 back page)**
Extinguish Candle

SEVENTH SHADOW:
Mark 15:40-47
"Without His Cross"
Jeanne Anderson, Ben Stucky
Extinguish Candle

Benediction

(Please leave the sanctuary in silence)

now as we share this table with all who come forward.

With confidence, we pray the prayer you taught us to pray, saying:

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin(g)dom 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 kin(g)dom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

The table has been set. Come, beloveds. Let's eat.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Eat as a sign of your personal faith. Drink of the cup with the pastor and the rest of our community as a sign of our communal faith.

SPECIAL MUSIC "I Come to the Cross"

(Jeanne Anderson, Ben Stucky, soloists)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, we thank you for these tangible gifts of bread and cup that feed our bodies and nourish our souls. May these blessings of grace be shared, not hoarded. Though we have been fed today at the table, may we still walk away hungry for justice, working for freedom and fullness for all of your creation. Amen.

Tenebrae

CHARACTER VISIT: Judas' friend

FIRST SHADOW: Mark 14:32-42

Hymn #219 "Journey to Gethsemane" (verses 1-3)

Extinguish Candle

SECOND SHADOW: Mark 14:43-52

*(All speak Bold Print, leaders speak plain print. * Please stand)*

PRELUDE "When I Behold Jesus Christ"

(Jeanne Anderson, Lettie Thurman, soloists)

WELCOME

INVOCATION (Unison)

Merciful God, in Jesus Christ, you give us a model for love made known through acts of humble service. In the sharing of bread and cup, let us receive the living Christ and envision your saving feast of welcome for all who are hungry. As we enter into these holy days, guard our hearts and minds so we may ponder the mysteries of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our servant Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Luke 22:7-46

CHARACTER VISIT: PETER

MEDITATION

CALL & PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God. For God knows all our choices, and God longs to bring us into wholeness. Gracious and loving God, we enter this worship space much like the disciples on that tragic night when Jesus was betrayed. We do not know what the future holds. Perhaps we bring confusion or fear. Perhaps we bring guilt and shame. Perhaps we are simply aware of the ways we blunder along, never quite living up to the way of Jesus. Together, we bring our hearts before your throne, and we leave our sin behind.

We confess our imperfections, our moments of weakness, our lapses in judgment. We confess our flashes of meanness, our lies, our petty words, and our disrespect of neighbors. We confess the sins we hold privately in our minds, knowing that nothing is hidden from you. We ask for your for-

giveness. Loving God, you are faithful to forgive us when we confess our sins. Transform our hearts and minds so that we might turn away from our sin and walk in the path you have marked out for us in Christ's name. Amen

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

WORDS OF GRACE

Beloved in Christ, God knows the condition of our souls today. God hears the cries of our repentant hearts and responds with grace. Turn from your sin, receive God's pardon, and be at peace.

Communion

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

On this night, you are invited to stand on the bridge between love and lament, communion and conflict, a witness to mercy that risked it all. As you come, remember, you do not come alone. You are joined by the beloveds to your left and the right, and the great communion of saints who led us to this time and place. As Luke's Gospel tells us, Jesus eagerly desires to share this meal with us. Come, let us be present to and for the one who embodied love.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Acknowledge, name, and lift up your burdens, worries, and longings.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the humble servant, our model of mercy and grace.

We joyfully give our thanks and praise.

It is right to give our thanks and praise to the one who knelt down to lift others up. Who made others clean so all could know their dignity and

worth. Who transformed a simple meal into elaborate grace. This is the true work of imagination: to love without limits, serve in all spaces, and welcome without walls.

And so, with your people on earth and all the saints before us, we praise your name and join the unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night when love would be put on trial, Jesus first invited his friends together to feed souls and belie. In the midst of his fear and theirs, Jesus reminded them of the value and necessity of humility, service, and community. He took a simple loaf of bread.

Blessed it.

Broke it.

Shared it.

Saying, "Take. Eat. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took a cup of wine.

Blessed it.

Passed it.

Saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is love poured out for you and for many."

Because of these simple and remarkable acts, we offer ourselves to be your hands and feet, and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ was executed.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Let us pray:

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God. May these gifts of bread and wine transform our hearts and minds and put our hands and feet to action.

Grant that these reminders of your grace will prepare us for the work ahead, to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Be with us