



Just As ... I AM

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
(Ephesians 2:10)

Charlotte Elliott wrote the familiar hymn “Just As I Am” in 1834. Born in 1789, a severe illness at age 32 left her unable to care for herself. Charlotte thereafter lived with her younger brother, Henry.

The parish he pastored in the resort town of Brighton, England, decided to hold a bazaar. Its proceeds would fund a school building and scholarships for underprivileged children.

Charlotte felt herself useless because she could not assist with preparations.

This hymn’s stanzas embodied her cries in answer to the despair. She then offered it as encouragement in a collection she called *The Invalid’s Hymnbook* (1836).

LFL

Entrance Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (LSB 790)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near
Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been
Sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief?
Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do
As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again;
Gladly forever adore Him!

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Our help is in the name of the Lord

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P Almighty God, Maker and Father,

C You despise nothing You have made, and You desire not the death of sinners.

We confess that we have abused Your blessings, neglected our neighbors, and served only ourselves. Our sin, within and without, known and unknown, has made us and our world unrighteous altogether. Mercifully turn us from temptation and transgression to lament our frailties, repent our failures, and amend our behavior. Graciously take away our guilt and punishment for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Substitute and Advocate. Grant that His atonement for iniquity and dominion over death reconcile us in holy faithfulness to You and humble fellowship with one another. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Introit: Psalm 8:1-9

P O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

C You have set your glory above the heavens.

P Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes,

C to still the enemy and the avenger.

P When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,

C the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

P what is man that you are mindful of him,

C and the son of man that you care for him?

P Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings

C and crowned him with glory and honor.

P You have given him dominion over the works of your hands;

C you have put all things under his feet,

P all sheep and oxen,

C and also the beasts of the field,

P the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea,

C whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

P O Lord, our Lord,

C how majestic is your name in all the earth!

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Hymn of Praise: What Wondrous Love (LSB 543)

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this That caused the Lord of bliss

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,

To bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down, sinking down,

When I was sinking down Beneath God's righteous frown

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul, for my soul,

Christ laid aside His crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb I will sing;

To God and to the Lamb, Who is the great I AM,

While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,

While millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing His love for me,

And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

And through eternity I'll sing on.

Collect

P O Lord, You have wondrously created us and all else for Yourself and for life everlasting. In the coming of Your Son, You have redeemed our race and united humankind to Your own immortality. As Your Holy Spirit continues to call and lay claim to body and soul, grant us every one to be made now and ever more like the image of Him who made Himself like us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Genesis 9:1-15 And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth. The fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth and upon every bird of the heavens, upon everything that creeps on the ground and all the fish of the sea. Into your hand they are delivered. Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. And as I gave you the green plants, I give you everything. But you shall not eat flesh with its life, that is, its blood. And for your lifeblood I will require a reckoning: from every beast I will require it and from man. From his fellow man I will require a reckoning for the life of man. Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed, for God made man in his own image. And you, be fruitful and multiply, increase greatly on the earth and multiply in it.” Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “Behold, I establish my covenant with you and your offspring after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the livestock, and every beast of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark; it is for every beast of the earth. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh. And the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Ephesians 2:1-10 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

John 14:12-20 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Creed

Sermon Hymn: Just As I Am (LSB 570)

Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many_a conflict, many_a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Sermon

Offering Hymn: Jesus Shall Reign (LSB 832)

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun Does its successive journeys run;
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To Him shall endless prayer be made, And endless praises crown His head;
His name like sweet perfume shall rise With ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim Their early blessings on His name.

Blessings abound where'er He reigns; The pris'ners leap, unloose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest, And all who suffer want are blest.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring Honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, And earth repeat the loud amen.

Prayers

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- P** Our Father, who art in heaven, honor and glory, thanks and praise belong to You, for You have made human life in Your image. You adopt and adore us each just as we are for the sake of Your beloved Son Jesus Christ. Grant us this grace also to receive every neighbor as a gift and privilege notwithstanding appearance or ability. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- P** Hallowed be Thy name. Gladden and embolden us to proclaim Your goodness and put it into practice, speaking truth that advocates against violence and death and showing love that assists survival and welfare as agents of Your promised joy and hope. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.
- P** Thy kingdom come. Graciously restrain the deception and selfishness that pressure many into viewing death as a solution to suffering. Bring an end to abortion, assisted suicide, embryocide, and all discrimination against the worth of any person. And enlighten our citizens and inspire our officials to enact policies and practices that protect and defend the vulnerable. Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

P Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Bless the medical arts and their practitioners as ambassadors of Your healing always to care and never to kill. Keep their minds and hands free from every unholy cultural pressure. As it pleases You, move everyone involved in intentionally ending human life to abandon and oppose these evils. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Give us this day our daily bread. Surround each human being with a healthy home and settle them in happy families according to Your good and gracious will. Accept our gratitude for the birthdays and anniversaries we celebrate (especially [*name(s)*]). Direct all hearts to wait upon Your abundance, assured that You will meet every bodily need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Warm and soften the spirits of those who slander, persecute, and oppress, that they may experience Your loving-kindness alongside us. Absolve and relieve anyone broken by the abortion of his or her own child. By Your mercy for our mistakes, bid us behold the sanctity of our own lives until we love one another as You have loved us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Lead us not into temptation. Bring forth in us the life and Spirit of our Shepherd and Savior Jesus to put away the desires and priorities of the flesh. Intervene and undertake on behalf of those beset by the afflictions of our fallen race and the burdens of this broken world (especially [*name(s)*]). And drive the devil far from everyone considering abortion or contemplating physician-assisted suicide. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Deliver us from evil. Give answer to the ones who cry out awaiting adoption, facing surprise pregnancy, experiencing infertility, or enduring terminal diagnosis. Form in us a patient faith that leans upon Your presence and power at the hour of our dying. With Your Son, the angels, and all the saints, welcome us into the everlasting communion of Your heavenly kingdom, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

C Amen.

The service may continue with the liturgy of the Lord's Supper according to local custom. Suggested distribution hymns: Rock of Ages (LSB 761), Children of the Heavenly Father (LSB 725), and Amazing Grace (LSB 744).

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Recessional Hymn: I Am Jesus' Little Lamb (LSB 740)

I am Jesus' little lamb, Ever glad at heart I am;
For my Shepherd gently guides me, Knows my need and well provides me,
Loves me ev'ry day the same, Even calls me by my name.
Day by day, at home, away, Jesus is my staff and stay.
When I hunger, Jesus feeds me, Into pleasant pastures leads me;
When I thirst, He bids me go Where the quiet waters flow.
Who so happy as I am, Even now the Shepherd's lamb?
And when my short life is ended, By His angel host attended,
He shall fold me to His breast, There within His arms to rest.

Postlude

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