

## Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound,  
that saved and set me free!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

It was grace that taught my heart to care,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear,  
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
It's grace that's brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

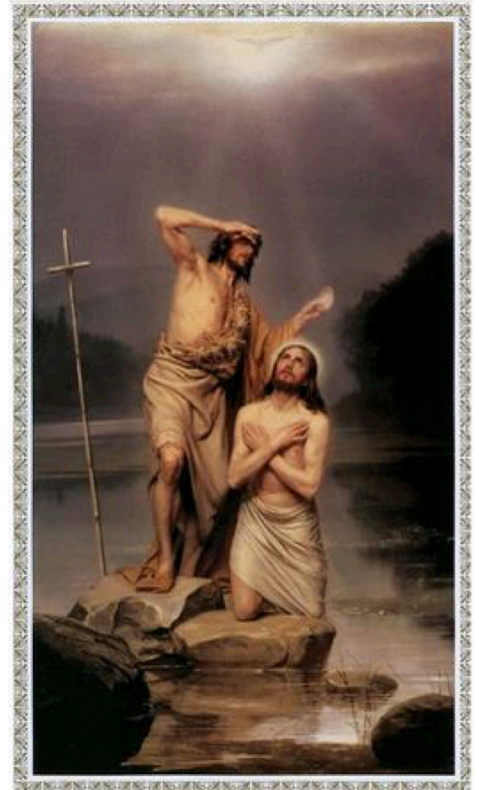
The Lord has promised life to me,  
in His word I am secure;  
He will my guide and shelter be,  
for now and ever more.

When this earthly temple fails,  
and mortal life shall cease;  
I shall possess, beyond the veil,  
a life of joy and peace.

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

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The lyrics to Amazing Grace were written by a preacher named John Newton and were first published in 1779. It was later combined with William Walker's music to a song called New Britain in 1829. The last of the six verses was written by Harriet Beecher Stowe and appeared in her widely acclaimed anti-slavery novel Uncle Tom's Cabin which was published in 1852. Over the years there were some 50 odd verses which have been published in various forms. What I have done is



The Baptism of Jesus  
Painting by Carl Bloch

use four of the most popular verses, more specifically verses 1,2,3 and 6 and modified them a bit. I also added the lesser known verses 4 and 5 with revisions as well. I have minimally substituted more contemporary words in order to make the entire lyric reflect a truer understanding of the author's intent. I have also created new, different and complementary music for the introduction, verse 3, the musical break, verse 6 and the finale as well.

Over the centuries the truer message has most often been lost sight of. The reality is it was meant to be a happy song about the unexpected acquiring of the realization that life is eternal and we are eternally safe in God's loving care and guidance. I have endeavored to make the entire song reflect more of the joy it was originally intended to convey. It will have a different meaning to some than others depending upon the degree of their own spiritual evolution. Yet, whenever it is performed, it never fails to unite the audience with a common bond of peace and tranquility it has always had the power to engender. To this day it remains one of the most popular, often recorded and/or performed songs ever written.

by Paul Martin

#### Credits

Original lyrics by John Newton and modified by Paul Martin.

Verse 6 written by Harriet Beecher Stowe.

Original music written by William Walker.

©2012 New music and words written and performed by Paul Martin.

Produced and arranged by Paul Martin and Daryl Kojak.

©2013 Lyrics and Music amended by Paul Martin.

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