



Hymn 373, *By Grace I'm Saved, Grace Free and Boundless* is our hymn of the week—How is it that we have been set free from the bondage of sin, to live a life pleasing to God, with love toward our neighbor? Only by the grace of God. Our salvation is a free gift; our works could never begin to secure our salvation. But, through the love of God poured out upon us in the person of His Son, Jesus, He has made us His own. Tomorrow's chief hymn is a jubilant recounting of the goodness of God in graciously providing for our salvation.

Yes, there is something more lasting, more powerful, and greater than your sin. It is the love and compassion Jesus has for us sinners. While each of us were lost and steeped in sin, God our Father had a plan, a plan which was in place way before the dawn of time.

What God did not become. He could not save. And so, Christ came into the world as one of us. To save us. Jesus came into the world. To be counted with sinners. To save sinners.

At the right time, God our heavenly Father would send His only Son. Jesus would enter into our world, breaking into time and space. He came to be your substitute. He would live the perfect life for you. He would die the death that you deserve.

And there, at a cross, He would trade your sin, your misery, your guilt and shame to exchange it for His perfection. And work out what you and I could never, ever do!

Yes, Jesus has done for you better than what you could ever do for yourself. When settling the issue with sin, Jesus acts alone. He dealt with the issues of your brokenness Himself. Period. With no help from anyone. The Father sends His own Son to the cross. Jesus bore your sin. He carried it alone. – To the cross of Calvary. There He died for you.

There He wins salvation for the entire world. And on the third day. He rose from the dead to prove to you that this freedom, this forgiveness, this new life, has been credited to you.

God is completely responsible for your salvation. From front to back! You don't one-day wake up and decide to follow Jesus – Rather, He plants the seed of faith in your heart in Holy Baptism by the power of His Holy Spirit.

He then nourishes that faith by giving you His eternal Word, which is able to make you wise unto salvation. This is what St. Paul reminds us when he tells us *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast."* - Ephesians 2:8-9

Help me Lord Jesus!