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“Wonderful Grace of Jesus”

(Grace School Hymn)

The writer of the hymn “Wonderful Grace of Jesus,” Haldor Lillenas, was born in Norway and immigrated to the United States when he was a small child.

Converted to Christianity at the age of 21, he entered Bible college and later became an elder and a pastor in the Nazarene church. He obtained his musical training through personal and correspondence study. He and his wife, Bertha, worked as evangelists for a time, traveling the country.

Later, he settled down in Illinois. Having no piano at the time, and needing an instrument of some kind, he bought himself a little wheezy used organ for the extravagant sum of \$5. They didn't have much money at the time. With the aid of this instrument, he composed the song “Wonderful Grace of Jesus.”

This song was first published, in 1922, in the Tabernacle Choir Book, for which Mr. Lillenas was paid the grand sum of -- \$5.00!

In 1924, he founded Lillenas Publishing Company which later became Nazarene Publishing Company. He worked there for 20 years as an editor. Like many other hymn composers, he was prolific. Together, he and his wife wrote over 4000 hymns.

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1. Wonderful grace of Jesus,  
Greater than all my sin;  
How shall my tongue describe it,  
Where shall its praise begin?  
Taking away my burden,  
Setting my spirit free;  
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

Refrain:

Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus,  
Deeper than the mighty rolling sea;  
Higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain,  
All-sufficient grace for even me!  
Broader than the scope of my transgressions,  
Greater far than all my sin and shame;  
Oh, magnify the precious Name of Jesus,  
Praise His Name!

2. Wonderful grace of Jesus,  
Reaching to all the lost,  
By it I have been pardoned,  
Saved to the uttermost;  
Chains have been torn asunder,  
Giving me liberty;  
For the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.
  
3. Wonderful grace of Jesus,  
Reaching the most defiled,  
By its transforming power,  
Making him God's dear child,  
Purchasing peace and heaven  
For all eternity—  
And the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.