

*Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ May 3, 2026*

*Abiding Hope Lutheran Church  
a Loving Family, Growing In Faith,  
Sharing the Hope of Christ...*

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor  
Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music



*As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.*

## **WELCOME**

***We invite you to quietly prepare your hearts and minds for worship.***

*(please silence your cell phone)*

## **PRELUDE**

## **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God

*Please Stand*

### **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.** Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**


**GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 556** *Morning Has Broken*

## GREETING


The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## HYMN of PRAISE ~ Now the Feast and Celebration


*Refrain*



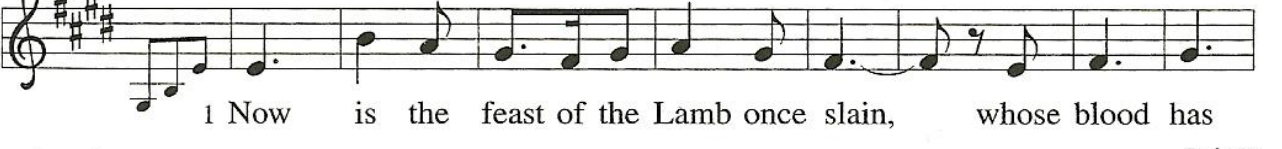
Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion



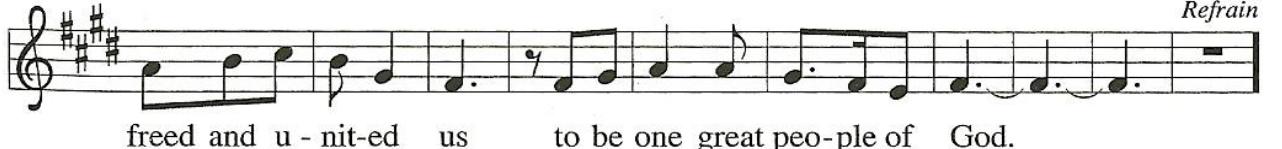
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;




praise and glo-ry for - ev - er - more!



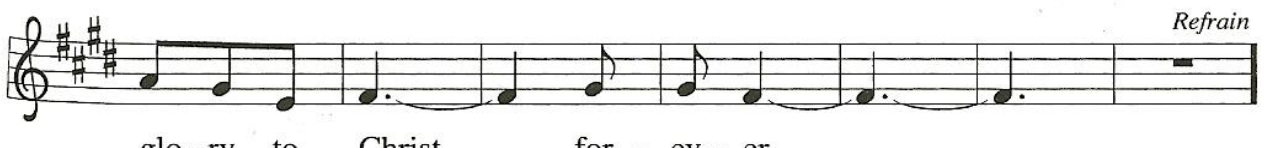
1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has




freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*



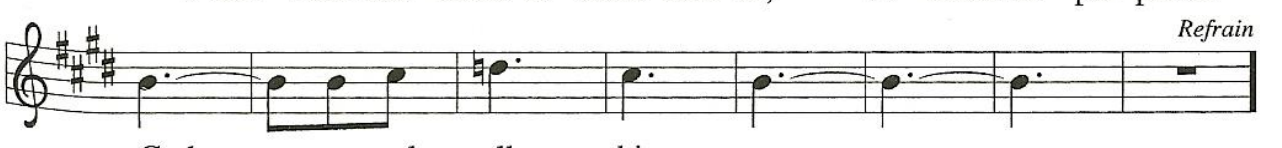
2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo-ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

## PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together. **Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

*Please be seated*

### FIRST READING: Acts 7:55-60

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: 31:1-5,15-16 Sung Responsively Tone 1

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame; deliver me | in your righteousness.

<sup>2</sup>**Incline your | ear to me; make haste to de- | liver me.**

<sup>3</sup>Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag | and my stronghold; for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.

<sup>4</sup>**Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me, for you are my tow- | er of strength.**

<sup>5</sup>Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit, for you have redeemed me, O LORD, | God of truth.

<sup>15</sup>**My times are | in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who | persecute me.**

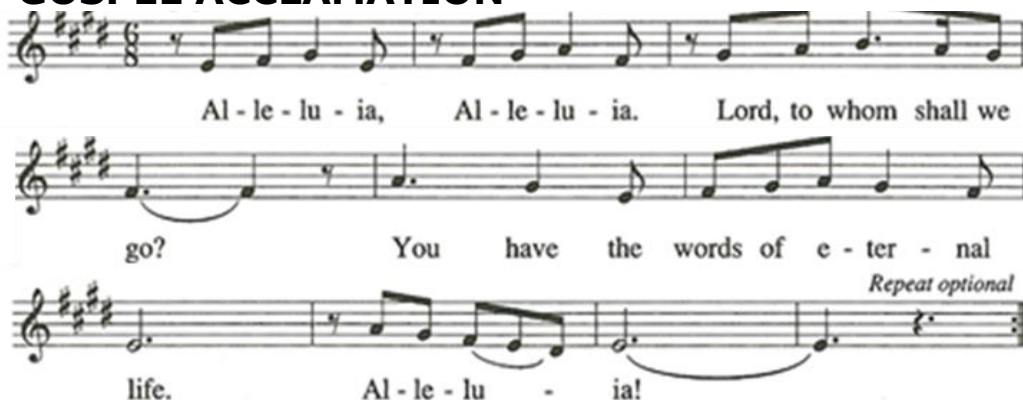
<sup>16</sup>**Let your face shine up- | on your servant; save me in your | steadfast love."**

### SECOND READING: 1 Peter 2:2-10

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia!

*Repeat optional*

## **GOSPEL: John 14:1-14**

The holy gospel according to John, Chapter 14. **Glory to you, O Lord.**  
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated*

**SERMON** ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

*Please stand*

**HYMN of DAY** ~ **ELW 816** *Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS of INTERCESSION**

*To each petition, Merciful God. Please respond: receive our prayer.*

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.*

*Please be seated*

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **OFFERTORY & PRESENTATION of GIFTS**

### **OFFERING**

*Please stand*

**OFFERTORY HYMN** ~ **ELW 465** *As Grains of Wheat*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray together. **Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. Amen.**

*Please stand*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **PREFACE**

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and  
might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your  
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the  
One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

### **THANKSGIVING at the TABLE**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.



## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray together. **Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. Amen.**

*Please stand*

## **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!** The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN ~ ELW 389** *Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing!*

## **DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## **POSTLUDE**

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## **PARISH NOTES ~ May 3, 2026**

Abiding Hope 2402 W. Grandview Blvd. 16506

Pastor Karen Parsh – 814-881-3266, [Pastorparsh@gmail.com](mailto:Pastorparsh@gmail.com)

Phone: 814-868-8685 – Email: [ahadministrator@hotmail.com](mailto:ahadministrator@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.abidinghopeerie.org](http://www.abidinghopeerie.org) - FB: [abidinghopelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/abidinghopelutheranchurch)

*This week the sanctuary flowers,  
given to the glory of God, are in  
Memory of Pauline Jenkins  
from Lon Jenkins*

**Please keep in your prayers:** Cindy & Rich Filson, Dale & Delores Mayhue, Jane Penna, Bill & Sharron Sontheimer, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Pastor Karen Parsh, Dolly Pacileo, Carl Larese, Peggy Kaeberlein, Christine Petrone, Darcée & Fred Anthony, Ava Whitely, Ed Whitbred, Matt, Carolyn & Elliott Marriotti, Josh, Adrianna, Titus, Peggy Kaeberlein, Jackie Seib, Dick & Diana Stoker, Leslie Gallagher-Kelly & Michele Rion & Sue, Harry & Susan Speakman, Kathy Sinnott, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Donna Holder and Little Library visitors.

**Sunday, May 3: Choir: 9:00 & 1045a, Worship: 9:30a, Bible Study: 11a.**

**Monday, May 4: Last day to REGISTER to vote before **May 19 Primary.****

**Monday, May 4: Prayer Shawl Ladies, 10a.** Prayer, good conversation, and knitting for the homebound. **Showing "how to" offered! All are welcome.**

**Tuesday, May 5: RACHEL'S DAY...** an opportunity to lift up all youth who are threatened by sex trafficking, gun violence, war, bullying, suicide; to recognize that children need to know that adults care. A Litany of Prayer/Candle lighting service, presided over by **Bishop Papson**, begins @ **6:00p, Luther Memorial.**

**Saturday, May 9: Camp Blast! Visit Lutherlyn, 11a-4p,** to enjoy several of the outdoor/indoor activities they have available for Summer Camp. Plus, tours & great food. **All free.**

**Sunday, May 10: Choir: 9:00 & 10:45a, Worship: 9:30a, Bible Study: 11a**  
**Zoom Bible: 7p**

**Geraniums for Day of Pentecost:** If you wish to have **a plant on the altar** for **Pentecost Sunday, forms** are in the **narthex. Final date** to place an order in the offering plate, **Sunday, May 10 or to the office by Monday, May 11.** Plants are **\$4.50 each.**

**Thursday, May 14:** Erie Lutheran Conference **Ascension Service, Luther Memorial, 7:00p. Bishop Papson**, presiding. Reception to follow. If interested in joining the choir, contact Bryan Timm at [BTimm@LutherMemorialOnline.org](mailto:BTimm@LutherMemorialOnline.org)

**Sunday, May 17: New Hope** is hosting a **homemade lasagna dinner, 12:30-3:00pm. Donations** for the dinner **appreciated to benefit KAFP. RSVP by May 10**, sheet in narthex, but walk-ins welcome. If you would like to contribute a dessert, please indicate on the RSVP sheet.

**Thursday's Share and Care:** On hiatus until **Thursday, June 4.**

**Volunteers Needed!** If you enjoy visiting nice people, **please consider becoming a Care Team member.** Bringing Holy Communion and a smile to homebound members is a joyful ministry. **Training available.** For more information contact **Jacque Holmberg @ 814.490.4470** or attend the **next meeting: Tuesday, May 19 @ 12:30.**

**Office Hours:** Mon. & Tue, 930a-330p. Wed., 930a-1230p. For immediate pastoral needs, **Thursday-Saturday**, contact **Pastor Karen Parsh – 814.881.3266.** On **Friday**, please contact **Rick Penn, 814.737.9974.**

### **Worship Leaders ~ May 3, 2026**

Videographer	Analee Cree
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Analee Cree
Lector/Prayers	Lon Jenkins
Communion Cups	Michele Rion
Communion Tray	Lois Kuhns
Presenter	Donna Holder
Presenter	Linda Allen
Usher	Rich Filson
Usher	Rick Penn
Counters	Analee & Michele