

Sixth Sunday Epiphany ~ February 16, 2025

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

*We are a Loving Family, Growing In Faith,
Sharing the Hope of Christ...*

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music



Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are" and the "woe tos" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

PRELUDE ~ *Carrying You* from *Laputa*
Castle in the Sky -J.Hisaishi/arr. O.Saracino

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ *Thank you to Paul Sontheimer, Howard Lyon and the Abiding Hope Choir for providing Special Music today!*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God

Please stand

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess
our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be
messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our
joy, our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our
neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

**Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life
in you. Amen.**

Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 728 *Blest Are They*

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



☪ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



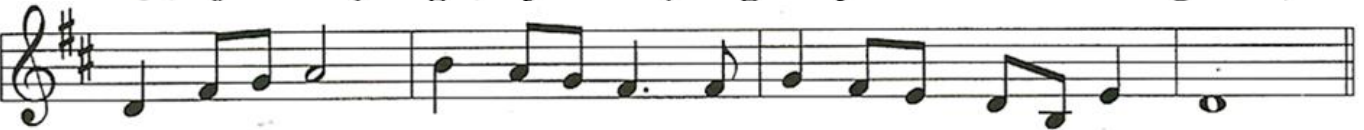
☐ Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☪ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

☐

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together
A brief silence is kept before the prayer. **Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Jerimiah 17:5-10

⁵ Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD.⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD.⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.⁹ The heart is devious above all else; It is perverse—who can understand it? ¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

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

PSALM: 1 Sung Responsively **Tone 11**

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel ¹ of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats ¹ of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law ¹ of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching ¹ day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that ¹ do not wither; everything they ¹ do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so ¹ with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind ¹ blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when ¹ judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council ¹ of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way ¹ of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall ¹ be destroyed.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

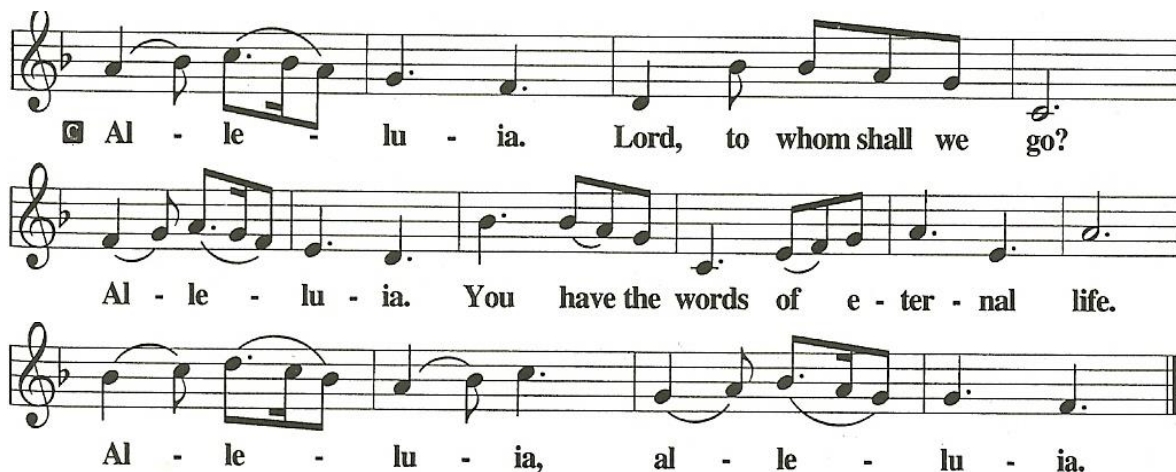
¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain.

¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

The holy gospel according to Luke, Chapter 6. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. ²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God." ²¹ "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

cont'd

²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.²⁴“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.²⁵“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

Please stand

HYMN of the DAY ~ **ELW 725** *When the Poor Ones*

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration.

Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. We pray especially for: Desi, Carolyn & Baby Elliot, Shelly, Dan, Ellie, Court, Dick, Judy J., Damian & Marcia, Pat K., Marjorie, Ron F., Larry & Barb, Tom, Esther, Judy N., Kathi (Cindy Filson's sister), Don & Donna, Evelyn and the prayer requests from our Little Library friends.

Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

Amen.

PEACE

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

All share the Peace of the Lord with one another.

Please be seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS

OFFERING ~ Choir Anthem: *For the Beauty of the Earth* -H. Hopson

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. **God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. 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 Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING at the TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

At Abiding Hope all believers are welcome to share Holy Communion at the table of the Lord. After receiving the bread, (gluten free) you may receive wine from the chalice poured into individual glasses or you may choose pre-poured grape juice (in center of tray) as an alternative.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

LAMB of GOD

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - wav the sin of the world: have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN ~ ELW 479 *We Come to the Hungry Feast*
INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION

PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our † Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER after COMMUNION

Let us pray. **God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please stand

SENDING

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

SENDING HYMN ~ Blessed Be Your Name pgs.12, 13

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE ~ Joy of Remembrance from Celeste: Farewell -L. Raine

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Blessed Be Your Name

VERSE



1. Bless - ed be ___ Your name _ in the land that ___ is plen -
 2. Bless - ed be ___ Your name _ when I'm found in ___ the des -
 3. Bless - ed be ___ Your name _ when the sun's shin - ing down .
 4. Bless - ed be ___ Your name _ on the road marked _ with suf -



- ti - ful, ___ where Your streams of ___ a - bun - dance flow, _ bless-ed _
 - ert place, _ though I walk through _ the wil - der - ness, _ bless-ed _
 - on me, ___ when the world's "all ___ as it ___ should be." ___ bless-ed _
 - fer - ing, ___ though there's pain in ___ the of - fer - ing, ___ bless-ed _

[1, 3.] [2, 4.] **PRE-CHORUS**



___ be Your name. _ Ev - 'ry bless - ing You pour out I'll
 ___ be Your name. _
 ___ be Your name. _
 ___ be Your name. _



turn back to praise. When the dark - ness clos - es in, Lord,

CHORUS



still I will say, "Bless-ed be the name of ___ the ___ Lord, ___ bless-ed be Your



name. Bless - ed be the name of ___ the ___ Lord, _

Last time to Coda ♪



___ bless - ed be Your glo - ri - ous name." _

1. D.C. 2. BRIDGE

You give and take a - way, You
 give and take a - way. My heart will choose to say, "Lord,
 Bless - ed be Your name." _ You name." _ Bless - ed be the

D.S. al Coda

Coda

PARISH NOTES ~ February 16, 2025

Pastor Karen Parsh – 814-881-3266 Pastorparsh@gmail.com
ahadministrator@hotmail.com - www.abidinghopeerie.org -
 FB: [abidinghopelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/abidinghopelutheranchurch)

Please keep these members and friends in your prayers:

Desi Davis, Shelly West, Dan Kaeberlein, Carolyn & Baby Elliott Mariotti, Ellie Cherpak, Damian and Marcia Santabene, Court Cratty, Dick Brucker, Evelyn Senger, Judy Johnston, Pat Kerr, Marjorie Wonner, Ron Froess, Judy Nordin, Larry & Barb Ruhlman, Esther Klakamp, Tom Cirillo, Kathi (Cindy Filson's sister), Don & Donna Holder and requests from our Little Library.

Receiving Communion: If it is a challenge for you to come forward to receive communion, please alert the usher and you will be served communion at your seat.

Sunday, February 16: Worship, 930a ~ Choir: 900 & 1045a

Sunday, February 23: Worship, 930a ~ Choir: 900 & 1045a

Sunday, February 16 & 23: Bible Study, 1045a

Monday, February 17: Prayer Shawl gathering, 10a-12n. Join the ladies for prayer, good conversation, knitting/crocheting items for the homebound. No Experience?! "How to" will gladly be offered. **All ladies are welcome.**

Wednesday, February 19: Prayer Warriors 1-3p in the Sanctuary or "Quiet" room. Through intercession prayers believers can bring comfort, encouragement and hope to those facing difficult circumstances.

Wednesday, February 19: Men's Night Out, 630p - McGarrey's Oakwood.
 RSVP not necessary. Just stop in and join the AH guys for good food & conversation.

Thursday, February 20: A new place for **Ladies Night Out. The Cornerstone Bar & Grill, 308 E. 38th, 530p.** Join in for a fun night. Sign-up sheet in narthex, please **RSVP** by **Tues. Feb 18.** Drivers/riders meet @ AHLC,5:00p.

Sunday, February 23: Abiding Hope is providing a "Night of Food" bags for "**Our Neighbors' Seasonal Overflow Shelter**" to feed people who are cold and hungry. **Following worship**, lunch bags (about 60) will be filled with fruit, sandwiches, snacks, etc. A **sign-up sheet** for volunteers is in the narthex... or ***just show up.***

Sunday, March 2: MARDI GRAS PARTY @ 1100a in the **F.H. Snacks, Games, Tureen Lunch** in the **F.H.** Followed by the **music** of the **Sax-O-Friends** quartet, **12:30p**, in the **sanctuary. Sign-up form in the narthex.**

Wednesday, March 5
ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES
12:15p & 6:00p @ Abiding Hope ~ 2:30p @ New Hope

Little Free Library/Pantry: Even on the harshest of winter days, visitors stop at the AH library/food pantry. Appreciated food donations: **individual hot cereal packages; hot chocolate packages; dried grain meals pasta, quinoa, rice, noodles etc; dried soup mixes; peanut butter/jam in PLASTIC jars; crackers, small packages of nuts/trail mix; granola bars.**

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up sheet and request forms on table in narthex. Arrangements-**\$20.00 each.** Place the **completed form and payment** in the offering plate, or to the office at least two weeks, no less than one, prior to your chosen Sunday.

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, 930a-330p. Wednesday, 930a-1230p. For **immediate pastoral assistance**, call **Pastor Karen**, 814-881-3266.

Worship Leaders ~ February 9, 2025

Videographer	Analee Cree
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Penny Gresh
Lector/Prayers	Analee Cree
Communion Cups	Ed Whitbred
Communion Tray	Carol Whitbred
Presenter	Carolyn Hayes
Presenter	Connie Kerr-Vogt
Usher	Rich Filson
Usher	John Holmberg
Counters	Penny & Rich