

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

March 27, 2022

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The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

Today at the start of the 10:30 service, Julia Bogdanets from the Erie for Ukraine and Grace Slavic Pentecostal Church will present a Temple Talk on helping those affected by the war in Ukraine. Their mission is to provide Erie a means to supply humanitarian aid to those affected by the war. See flyer at the back of this bulletin for additional information. Make checks payable to Grace Slavic Pentecostal Church or give online at: <https://linktr.ee/ErieForUkraine>.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

✠ In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.
Amen.

Silence for reflection

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Holy One,

we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In ✠ Jesus’ name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

Amen.

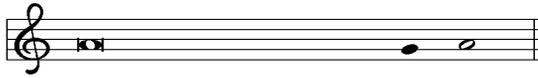
GATHERING SONG: ELW 807 ~ COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING

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.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



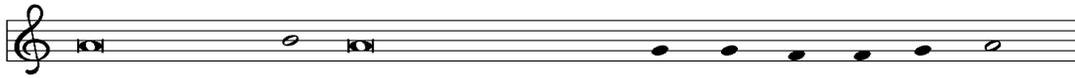
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - sing twice

The assembly stands.

Return to God

Refrain

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and
mer-cy; come seek the ten - der faith-fill-ness of God.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you

killed the fatted calf for him!’³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.’³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY - ELW 779 - AMAZING GRACE 8:30

AMAZING GRACE (MY CHAINS ARE GONE) - CCLI 4768151 10:30 *(See attached hymn)*

The assembly stands.

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.

THE PRAYERS

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.* Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the people of Ukraine, for all those suffering or afraid, that you will be close to them and protect them. We pray for world leaders, for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choices. We pray for the world that in this moment of crisis, we may reach out in solidarity to our brothers and sisters in need. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving, especially Sam, Dorothy, Karri, Richard, Esther and her brother Bill, Lois and her sister Helen, Don, Skip, Bonnie, Denise, Milo, Karen, Ruth, Don, Irene, Judi, Bishop Lozano, Carrie, Evelyn, Jack, Marjorie, Judy and Joyce and others we name aloud or in our hearts. Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation especially the Kearsarge Area Food Pantry and the Second Harvest Food Bank. Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly greets each other from their pew space.

The assembly is seated while the Pastor prepares communion.

The presenters approach the altar with flagon of wine and host.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The assembly stands

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, 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, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,

pouring out his life for the world.
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 life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.
Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.**

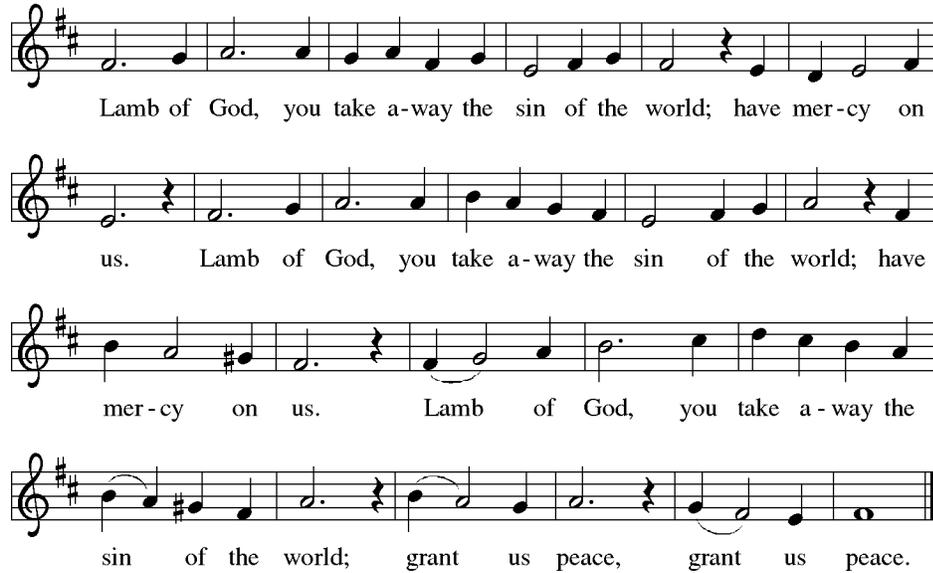
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet for all is now ready.

COMMUNION—*At Abiding Hope all believers are welcome to share Holy Communion at the table of the Lord. After receiving the bread, you may receive wine from the chalice poured into individual glasses or you may choose pre-poured grape juice as an alternative. Gluten free wafers are also available upon request.*

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-way 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.

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION HYMN ~ ELW 608 ~ SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING

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

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

Amen

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING SONG ~ ELW 588 ~ THERE IS A WILDNESS IN GOD'S MERCY

POSTLUDE

GOSPEL MESSAGE

As We Forgive Others

Jesus' parables are not simple fables with fixed meanings, but unsettling plot-twisting narratives that raise more questions than they answer. If we set aside the most familiar interpretations of today's gospel and enter into the story through another door (or another character's point of view), we may find surprising new insights.

What if the story of the prodigal son is not only about the steadfast love and forgiveness of God the Father? What if it is also a story about the complexity of family life, grudges held for years, words left unspoken, and scores unsettled? That is, what if this is a story about us?

Like most parables, the story ends unfinished, and we're left to ponder what happens next as it continues to unfold off the page. Does the older brother accept his father's invitation and come back to the party? Does anyone ever thank him for his years of loyalty? Is the younger brother really changed by his experience, or is his father enabling him? Do the mother and sisters show up? Will the family fall back into the same old dynamics, or will there be accountability and repair?

The good news in this story is that God loves all of these characters: the selfish son, the foolish father, the resentful brother, the absent mother. And God's love frees them to change.

Forgiveness is complicated. While we draw strength from the power of being wholly and unconditionally forgiven by God, human relationships are messy. It is rare that one party is entirely wrong and another entirely gracious. We pray as Jesus taught us: "Forgive us, as we forgive others."

At its most basic, repentance means changing our way of perceiving. This is also the first movement of forgiveness: imagining ourselves in another's place, seeing the situation through their eyes. Held in the power of God's love, we are free to let our perception shift and to break out of the ruts of family systems to find new ways of being.



PARISH NOTES

March 27, 2022

Please pray for: Sam and Dorothy Elder, Karri Pacileo, Esther Klakamp and her brother Bill Knobloch, Richard Wilhelm, Skip and Don Kleckner, Lois Kuhns and her sister Helen, Bonnie Gebhardt, Judy Nordin, Denise Miller, Karen Shick, Milo Mariotti, Ruth Hinkson, Don Fuller, Irene Owens, Judi Pacileo, Bishop Lozano, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, and Joyce Hersperger. Blessings to June Beard and Don Moyer as they prepare for their upcoming wedding on April 2nd.

Lenten Worship: New Hope Presbyterian Church joins us for all Lenten Worship, AND Soup Suppers. Mid week Lenten worship / Study include worship and study, *Journey with Our Savior*, and will explore spiritual relevance of key geographical points along the path of Christ's passion. Join us, each Wednesday through April 6th for Lenten Soup & Bread suppers at 5:30 followed by Worship / Study at 6:00 and choir at 7:00 pm. Sign up to bring soup or bread on sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Confirmation Classes with Pastor Karen on Sunday's after the 10:30 service will continue through Lent. Following the confirmation class, Damian Santabene will be training acolytes.

Communion: The congregation will celebrate communion as we did pre-pandemic. We will once again, kneel (or stand) at the altar rail and receive the host from Pastor Karen, then, choosing grape juice or an empty cup, we will receive the wine poured from the chalice from the communion assistant. The common cup will not be offered. For those who wish to use pre-packaged communion, sets are available as you enter the sanctuary.

Easter Flock Planning Meeting: Plans are in process for an Easter event to be held Saturday, April 9th at the church. New Hope Presbyterian and St Paul's Lutheran are working with Abiding Hope to make this event a success. This community event will take many folks to plan, promote and execute. We need your time and talents to make this a success. If time and talent are in short supply, your monetary gift to help defray the costs are welcome. **Next meeting is Tuesday the 29th at 11:30 AM.**

In-Person Worship: Sunday service is offered @ **8:30a and 10:30a.** The 10:30a service will live-stream

on Facebook and then posted to the AHLC web page. **Palm Sunday will be a combined festival Sunday at 9:00.**

Bible Study: Continues on **Sundays at 9:30a** between services.

Adult Choir: Is at 7 PM following the Lenten service.

ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companion churches in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as the Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Your gifts will support Ukrainians and others. Gifts to "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the crisis in Ukraine and neighboring countries. There are several ways to donate:
--Drop your donation in the church offering basket marked for "EECR" (for Eastern Europe Crisis Response). Checks dropped off at the church need to be made out to Abiding Hope with EECR written on the memo line.

--Mail your own check or money order to:

Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Write "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" on your check memo line.

--Give by phone at **800-638-3522** (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. CT)

--Go online: <https://community.elca.org/eastern-europe-crisis-response>

Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9:30 to 3:30 and Wednesday 9:30 -12:30. Pastor Karen is in the office Tuesday mornings and by appointment. To contact Pastor Karen call 814-881-3266.

Lenten 7 PM Sunday Zoom study group with Pastor Karen and Lon Jenkins. **TONIGHT at 7 PM** and April 3rd we continue to study the book *The Shack* by William Paul Young. There is still time to join this group. Sign up by contacting Lon Jenkins at jenkinslon@aol.com and he will send you your Zoom instructions.

Bethany Outreach - Doing some wardrobe cleaning out and updating? Remember your gently used clothing, shoes, household items, toys, children's items can be donated. All items are given out without charge. The next **drop off date is April 18**. Thank you for your continued support. Analee Cree -814-397-6168.

Bishop Lozano : Prayers are powerful and are requested to be continued along with cards (deposit in box in the Narthex) and notes, which can be the medicine one needs on days when it is hardest to keep strong.

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for worship, a sign-up form is on the table in the narthex. The costs of the flowers remain the same, **\$20.00 per arrangement**. Please return your request and payment one week ahead of your chosen Sunday.

Sign Up sheet is in the narthex for Bible purchases for summer Bible reading initiative. Costs: The Message Bible - \$25, Lutheran Study Bible / hardcover - \$35, paperback -\$30

Candles for today's worship service were given by **Carol Wunch**

In Memory of Gordon and Mark Wunch

Altar Flower for today's worship were given by **Carol Korn**

In Memory of her mother, Helen Kelly



CURRENT FUND REPORT

February Income:	\$ 7,963.00	Year to Date Income:	\$ 16,237.00
February Expenses:	\$10,851.79	Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 20,425.33
February Difference:	\$ -3,158.79	Year to date Difference:	\$ -4,152.33
	Year to Date Budget:		\$ 22,586

Worship Leaders - March 27, 2022

	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Videographer	X	Penny Gresh
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall	Nancy Cunning
Lector/Prayers	Marcia Santabene	Nancy Cunning
Comm. Assist/cups	Damian Santabene	Carol Whitbred
Comm. Assist/wine	Lon Jenkins	Ed Whitbred
Comm. Assist/tray	Analee Cree	Jeanne Tropper
Presenter	Mary Randall	Kayla Miller
Presenter/Usher	Mike Paris	Andy Saska
Counters	X	Lon Jenkins
	X	Andy Saska

Easter Flowers or KAFP for 2022

All are invited to place a plant in the altar area for
EASTER SERVICES on Sunday, April 17th

OR choose to donate to the **KEARSARGE AREA FOOD PANTRY**

Please fill-in the following information and return the form with your pay-
ment in an envelope, Attn: Denise.



In the offering plate by MARCH 27th or to the office by MARCH 28th for all flower orders
or April 6th for KAFP donations.

PLEASE PRINT

Given to the glory of God:

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

From: _____

PLEASE MARK THE NUMBER OF PLANTS: *(plants come with foil wrap)*

6 ½ inch Easter Lily \$8.00 ea. _____ 6 ½ inch Hyacinth \$8.00 ea. _____

6 ½ inch Tulip \$8.00 ea. _____ 6 ½ inch Daffodil \$8.00 ea. _____

Amount enclosed for flowers \$ _____ OR

Amount enclosed for the Food Pantry \$ _____

Please place this form with your donation, in an envelope marked **EASTER FLOWERS OR EASTER KAFP**, in the offering plate by **Sunday March 27th** or return to the church office by **Monday, MARCH 28th** for flowers or April 6th for KAFP donations. Thank you.