

*First Sunday of Lent ~ March 9, 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



These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS** – *This morning we welcome Rick Penn as our Lay Minister and thank Howard Lyon and Paul Sontheimer for providing special music.*

## **PRELUDE**

### **GATHERING**

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

*Please stand*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

**Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts.**

**We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.**

**Amen.**

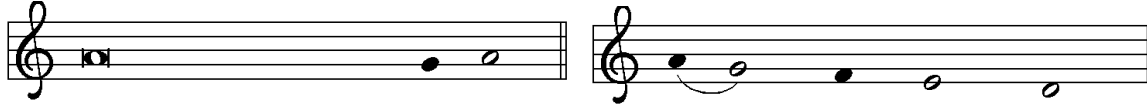
Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN - ELW 611** *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

## 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

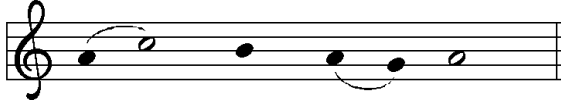


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

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.



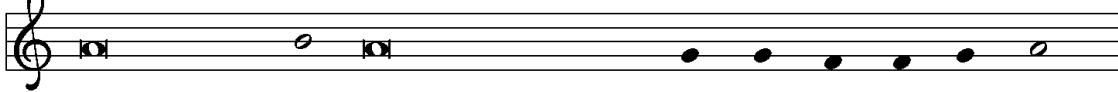
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.* **O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who 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: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

<sup>1</sup> When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup> you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup> You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup> When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, <sup>5</sup> you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup> we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup> The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. <sup>11</sup> Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

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

**PSALM: 91:1-2, 9-16 Sung Responsively**



<sup>1</sup>You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—

<sup>2</sup>**you will say to the LORD, “My refuge | and my stronghold,  
my God in whom I | put my trust.”**

<sup>9</sup>Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,  
and the Most High your | habitation,

<sup>10</sup>**no evil | will befall you,  
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**

<sup>11</sup>For God will give the angels charge | over you,  
to guard you in | all your ways.

<sup>12</sup>**Upon their hands they will | bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone.**

<sup>13</sup>You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;  
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.

<sup>14</sup>**I will deliver those who | cling to me;  
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**

<sup>15</sup>They will call me, and I will | answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.

<sup>16</sup>**With long life will I | satisfy them,  
and show them | my salvation.**

**SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13**

<sup>8b</sup>“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup>The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

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

## Gospel Acclamation

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

Verse 1  
1. Now the time of grace has come, the day of sal -  
va - tion; come and learn now the way of our God. *D.C.*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is primarily in the soprano voice, with piano accompaniment in the bass and treble clefs. The lyrics are: "Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God. God. Last time". Below this is a section labeled "Verse 1" with the lyrics: "1. Now the time of grace has come, the day of sal - va - tion; come and learn now the way of our God. D.C.". The score includes first and second endings, and a double bar line with "D.C." (Da Capo) marking the end of the verse.

## GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke, Chapter 4. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>9</sup> Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' <sup>11</sup> and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>3</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

Please be seated

**SERMON** – Rick Penn – Lay Minister

Please stand

**HYMN of DAY** - *When We are Tested*

1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,  
fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,  
nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,  
food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

**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 for the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, ill, grieving or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray especially for: Pr. Karen, Pr. Bill, Norma, Maury & Linda, Shelly, Dan & Peggy, Ellie, Dick, Judy J., Damian & Marcia, Marjorie, Ron F., Larry & Barb, Tom, Judy N., Esther & Dawn, Kathi (Cindy Filson's sister), Don & Donna, Evelyn, the prayer requests from the Little Library, and those we name before you now either aloud or in our hearts. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

**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.*

**OFFERING**

**OFFERING** – *Air on the G String* -J.S. Bach

**OFFERTORY HYMN** - *Create in Me*

Cre - ate in me \_\_\_ a clean heart, oh God, \_\_\_ that I might serve \_\_\_  
 You; \_\_\_ Cre - ate in me \_\_\_ a clean heart, oh God, \_\_\_ that I might be re -  
 -newed. So fill \_\_\_ me and heal \_\_\_ me, and bring me \_ back to \_\_\_  
 You. \_\_\_\_\_ Cre - ate in me \_\_\_\_\_ a clean  
 heart, oh God, \_\_\_ that I might serve \_\_\_\_\_ You.

Assisting Minister

**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.**

Assisting Minister

**PRAYERS of DISTRIBUTION**

Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.



When our congregation gathers for the celebration of Holy Communion, we hear again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With thanksgiving we remember the words that have been spoken:

"In the night in which he was betrayed, he 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

We have been given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ. As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*Please stand*

## **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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

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.

## **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;

# DISTRIBUTION of ELEMENTS ~ Lay Distributors

## COMMUNION HYMN – *Lord I Need You* pgs. 10,11 *Instrumental Meditation*

INTRO



1. Lord, I

VERSE 1



come, I con - fess. Bow-ing here, I find my\_\_ rest. And with-out



You, I fall a - part. You're the one that guides my\_\_ heart.

CHORUS 1



Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Ev - 'ry hour I

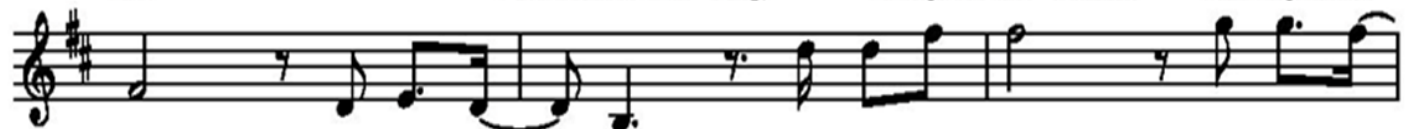


need You. My one de-fense, my right - eous-ness; Oh, God, how I need

VERSE 2



You. 2. Where sin runs deep, Your grace is\_\_ more. Where grace is



found is where You\_\_ are. And where You are, Lord, I am\_



\_\_ free. Ho - li - ness is Christ in\_\_ me. Where You are, Lord, I am.



\_\_ free. Ho - li - ness is Christ in\_\_ me. Lord, I

CHORUS 1



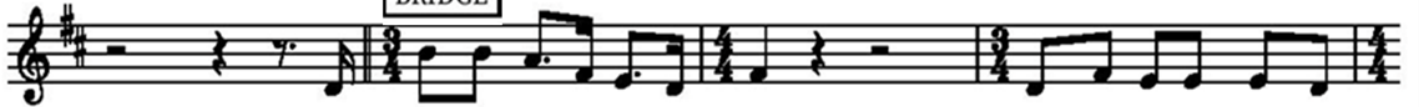
need You, oh, I need You. Ev - 'ry hour I need You. My

2nd time to Coda



one de-fense, my right - eous-ness; Oh, God, how I need You.

BRIDGE



So, teach my song to rise to You when temp-ta-tion comes my



way. And when I can - not stand, I'll fall on You.



Je - sus, You're my hope and \_\_\_ stay. And when I can - not stand, I'll fall on \_

CHORUS 1 D.S. al Coda



\_\_\_ You. Je - sus, You're my hope and \_\_\_ stay. \_\_\_\_\_ Lord, I

Coda

CHORUS 2



Lord, I need You, oh, I need You. Ev - 'ry hour I



need You. My one de-fense, my right - eous-ness; Oh, God, how I need



You. My one de - fense, my



right - eous - ness; Oh, God, how I need You.

## **BLESSING**

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

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Embodied God, **at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

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

## **BLESSING**

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN - ELW 774** *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **PARISH NOTES - March 9, 2025**

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

**Please keep these members and friends in your prayers:** Maury and Linda Allen, Norma Buerk, Pastor Bill Cox (Prince of Peace), Desi Davis, Shelly West, Dan & Peggy Kaeberlein, Damian and Marcia Santabene, Court Cratty, Dick Brucker, Ellie Cherpak, Evelyn Senger, Judy Johnston, Pat K. Judy Nordin, Marjorie Wonner, Ron Froess, 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, March 9: No Bible Study**

**Sunday, March 16: Worship, 930a - Choir: 1045a Bible Study**

**Wednesday's in Lent: March 12, 19, 26 ~ April 2, 9 in the Fellowship Hall @ 12:15p.** Lenten worship, "The Sign from Jonah" followed by **soup, bread & dessert** with our friends from New Hope. A **sign-up sheet to bring soup etc.** is in the narthex.

**Monday, March 17:** All ladies (friends too) are welcome to gather for **Prayer Shawls 10a-12n**. Join the group for prayer, good conversation, knitting shawls, lap robes etc. for the homebound. **No experience? Showing "how to" offered!**

**Tuesday, March 18: Care Team meets 12:30p**

**Wednesday, March 19: Prayer Warriors 1-3p.** Pray with us silently for whatever time you can or wherever you are during that time. Through intercession prayers believers can bring comfort, encouragement and hope to those facing difficult circumstances.

**Wednesday, March 19: Men's Night Out, 630p, Chico's W. Ridge Rd, Fairview** RSVP not necessary. Just stop in and join the AH guys for good food & conversation.

**Thursday, March 20:** The group will meet for **Ladies Night Out at Brewerie, Union Station, 530p**. Join in for a fun night of good food, conversation and some LAUGHS. **RSVP** sign-up sheet in the narthex (please indicate if you need a ride) by **Tuesday, March 18**. Drivers/riders meet @ ALC, 5:00p. **All ladies** welcome.

**Sunday, March 23:** Pr. Jean Kuebler of **Faith Lutheran Church, 5414 East Lake Rd. Harborcreek** is offering **a lay communion distributor's class**. If anyone is interested, call Pr. Kuebler – 717-440-35145.

**Altar Flowers:** To **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, fill in the weekly **sign-up sheet** and **request forms** on table in narthex. Arrangements-**\$20.00 each**. Place the **completed form, 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 – March 9, 2025**

Videographer	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall
Lector/Prayers	Analee Cree
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Bob Hicks
Communion Wine	Nancy Cunning
Communion Cups	Michele Rion
Communion Tray	Lois Kuhns
Usher	Andy Saska, Volunteer
Counters	Rich & Paul

## UPDATED CHURCH DIRECTORY

An up-to-date Abiding Hope  
Member Directory is coming soon!

### FOR YOUR ACTION.

***Before March 25<sup>th</sup>, if possible!***

Please review your personal contact information printed in the master directory on two clipboards in the narthex at church.

If your information is **accurate and complete** (name, address, phone, email address, names of children 23 years old and younger living with you), please write "OK" by your entry.

If your information is **incorrect or incomplete**, please ***change/add the updated information*** beside your entry in this directory.

If you notice any additional needed corrections, please write down what you noticed on the last page of this directory and include your name.

If you have a *current*, clear **PHOTO** you would like to include in this updated directory, place it (along with your name) in the Holmberg mailbox at church, or scan your photo and send it to [jholmberg@roadrunner.com](mailto:jholmberg@roadrunner.com).

Updated photographs will be taken after worship services at a later date, as needed.

Thank you. *Jacque Holmberg*