

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

May 8, 2022

Pastor: Rev. Karen Parsh - 814.881.3266 - pastorparsh@gmail.com

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The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn?

Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 385 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

GREETING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! (three times)

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.**

NOW the FEAST



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;



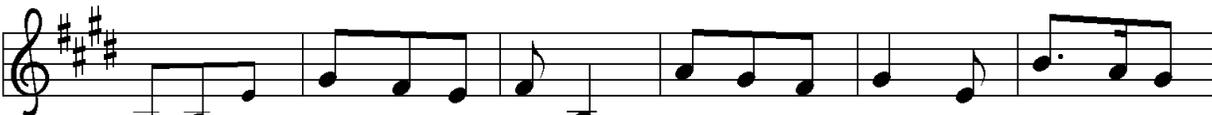
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



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.



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



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



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



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Acts 9:36-43

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner. **The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 23

Responses Sung Tone 1



¹The LORD¹ is my shepherd;

I shall not ¹ be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures
and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.

³You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways ¹ for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall ¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ¹ comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence ¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ¹ running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the ¹ LORD forever.

SECOND READING: Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. ¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." **The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 10:22-30

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 10. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ 8:30am ELW 854 *Blessing and Honor*

10:30am *I Look to the Shepherd*

Please stand

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

Set free from captivity to sin and death, we pray to the God of resurrection for the church, people in need, and all of creation. *brief silence.*

Gentle Shepherd, enable your church to respond to the voice of Jesus. Give us unfailing trust, unafraid to join in Jesus' work of renewing all things. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Feed your people at the table of creation. Prepare a safe place for those whose environments are dangerous or unhealthy, especially those making difficult journeys. Prosper your creation for the sake of every living thing. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Warm the hearts of all who celebrate and all who mourn on Mother's Day. Accompany those yearning to be mothers. Help us to heal from broken family relationships and open us to receive your nurturing love from all who serve mothering roles in our lives. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Seek out those who weep while they await healing or consolation, especially, Shirley, Greg & Carolyn, Pastor Karen and Dave Parsh, Steven, Michael, Cheryl, Ed, Mark, Sam & Dorothy, Karri, Skip & Don, Bonnie, Judy, Karen, Milo, Ruth, Don, Irene, Judi, Bishop Lozano, Carrie, Evelyn, Jack & Marjorie, and Joyce. Set people in their path who can provide the care they need and wipe away every tear from their eyes. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Inspire the words of prophets and saints who employ innovative imagery to stretch our understanding. Send Christ to instruct us with motherly care. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Enfold us in the great multitude of saints from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages. Wash us in your saving grace every day, guiding us to your waters of life.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated

If a Lay Worship Leader is presiding, service is continued on page .

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING & PRESETATIONS

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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

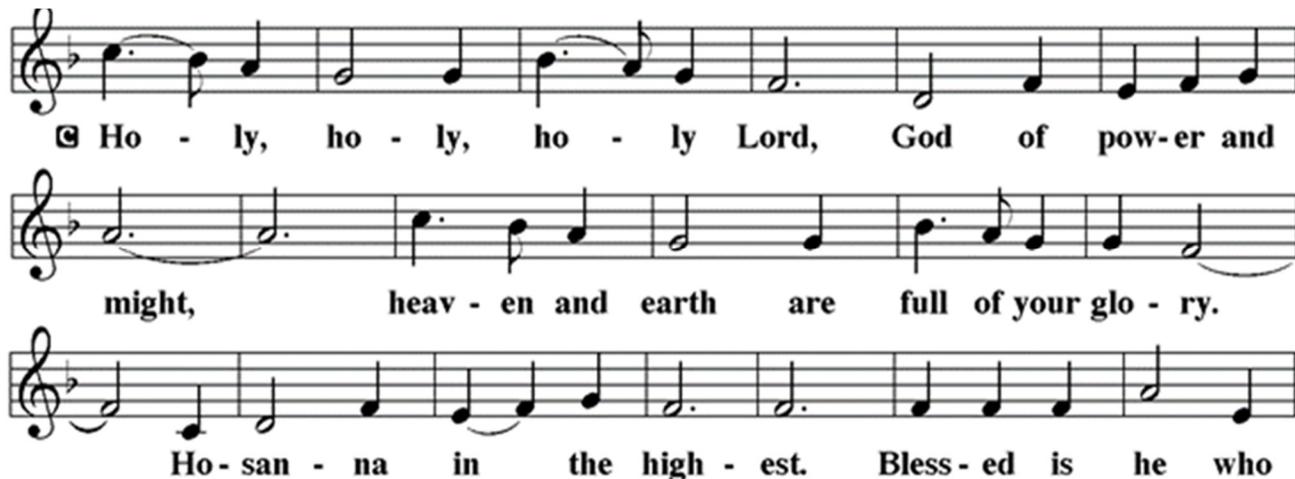
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to God. **It is right to give God 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. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, living, and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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-giving death and glorious resurrection,
we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: carry us in your arms from death to life,
that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Through him all
glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both
now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

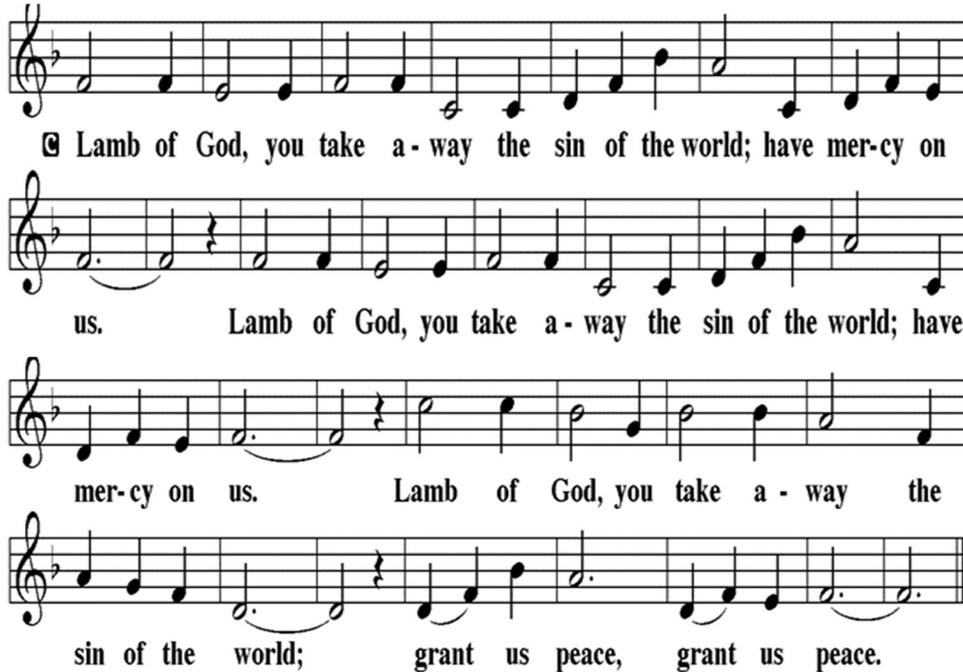
The risen Christ dwells with us here.
All who are hungry, all who are thirsty, come.

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.*

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 - 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.

COMMUNION HYMN ~ ELW 484 *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

PASTORAL BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray, We give you thanks, O God, that you make your home with us, bringing heaven to earth in this holy meal. Fill us with your Spirit as we go from here, that we may wipe away tears, tend to those in mourning and pain, seek the healing of the nations, and bring to earth the presence of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

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**

SENDING

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN ~ ELW 764 *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

POSTLUDE

GOSPEL MESSAGE ~ Aligned by Grace

As a group corners Jesus in the portico at the time of the festival of the Dedication, they are intent on determining whether he is the Messiah. Jesus' response points to two things: the words he has spoken and the testimony of his works. Jesus' words and works are aligned, and this integrity is grounded in the unity of Jesus and the Father.

People are complicated. We have an ability to justify ourselves when our speech and our actions do not align. We have a capacity to hold together contradictory ideas, some of which can be full of love, others of which can be harmful to our neighbors. We are not sometimes good and sometimes sinful, but both at once.

How does this paradox impact our integrity and our witness? Our words and actions matter in that they affect other people. To the extent that we can put effort into aligning our speech and our deeds in faithful ways, we should do so, but ultimately it is Jesus who draws us into alignment. The voice of Jesus is like the magnetic force that brings the compass needle to point north, or like the mechanic who adjusts the alignment on a car so it will steer straight.

We will inevitably get out of alignment with our values and our faith from time to time, but the voice of the Shepherd is always there to invite us back into alignment with grace and love. As we seek to live with faithful integrity, we do so with the promise that we cannot be snatched away from God.

PARISH NOTES ~ May 8, 2022

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Please pray for: Pastor Karen and Dave Parsh, Shirley Wolbach (Sheryl Williams' mother) the family of Greg & Carolyn Hayes on the death of his mother, Shirley Hayes. Steven Elder (Judi Pacileo's granddaughter's husband hurt in a motorcycle accident), Michael Haley (grandson of Peggy Kaeberlein), Cheryl Tufts, Ed Tropper, Mark Pacileo, Sam & Dorothy Elder, Karri Pacileo, Skip & Don Kleckner, Bonnie Gebhardt, Judy Nordin, Karen Shick, Milo Mariotti, Ruth Hinkson, Don Fuller, Irene Owens, Shirley Englert. Judi Pacileo, Bishop Lozano, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, and Joyce Hersperger.

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.

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

Office Hours: Mon & -Tue 9:30a-3:30p, Wed 9:30a-12:30p. If office is not staffed, leave a message, your call will be returned. For immediate pastoral assistance, call Pastor Karen at 814-881-3266. Pastor is in the office on Tuesdays, 10:00a and by appointment.

Adult Choir: Wednesday May 11 @ 6:00p

Geraniums Pentecost Sunday, June 5: Final day to place request in offering plate, **Sunday May 15.** Final, Final to the office by 12noon, **Tuesday May 17.**

Town Hall Meeting: Sunday, May 15th between services. Plan to attend to discuss what's happening at church council meeting, future events and topics of interest. Bring your ideas and questions.

Bishop Lozano: Prayers are powerful and are requested to be continued along with cards and notes, which can be the medicine one needs on days when it is hardest to keep strong. They'll be forwarded several times. A box is in the narthex.

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. Thank you for your continued support. Analee Cree -814-397-6168.

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>

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

**Altar Flowers, given to the Glory of God
In Memory of Pauline Jenkins,
from Lon Jenkins**

**Altar Candles are given to the Glory of God,
In Memory of Gordon and Mark Wunch, by Carol Wunch**

CURRENT FUND REPORT

April Income:	\$ 8,173.00	Year to Date Income:	\$ 32,394.93
April Expenses:	\$ 9,595.28	Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 40,684.63
April Difference:	\$ -1,422.28	Year to date Difference:	\$ -8,289.70
	Year to Date Budget:		\$ 42,014

WORSHIP LEADERS - May 8, 2022

Pastor Karen

	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Videographer	X	Penny Gresh
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall	Nancy Cuning
Lector/Prayers	Lon Jenkins	Nancy Cuning
Comm. Cups	Analee Cree	Judi Pacileo
Comm. Wine	Mary Randall	Ed Whitbred
Comm. Tray	Mike Paris	Carol Whitbred
Presenter	Analee Cree	Jeanne Tropper
Presenter/Usher	Lon Jenkins	Volunteer
Usher	Volunteer	Dave Cuning
Counters	X	Dave Cuning, Analee Cree

Lay Worship Leader - Ed Whitbred

	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:30 AM</u>
Videographer	X	Penny Gresh
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall	Nancy Cuning
Lector/Prayers	Lon Jenkins	Nancy Cuning
Comm. Cups	Analee Cree	Judi Pacileo
Comm. Wine	Mary Randall	Ed Whitbred
Comm. Tray	Mike Paris	Carol Whitbred
Usher	Lon Jenkins	Dave Cuning
Counters	X	Analee Cree, Dave Cuning

Red Geraniums for Pentecost ~ Sunday, June 5, 2022

Cost - **\$3.50** for a 4½-inch pot containing one red plant with gold foil wrap.

Please return this form with your payment, in an envelope marked Pentecost Geraniums, in the offering plate **Sunday, May 15th** or return to the church office by **12 noon Tuesday, May 17th** or bring in your own geraniums for placement on the altar. If you would like to donate your plants to be planted on church grounds. Please check the box.

PLEASE PRINT

Given to the glory of God:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Celebration of _____

From _____

of plants ordered: _____ enclosed: \$ _____

Members wishing to donate their geraniums to beautify our church property, please check here _____

I Look To The Shepherd



1. I look to the Shep-herd, He meets all my needs. Be -
 2. And when in the val - ley of deep - est de - spair, I



-side the still wa - ters He faith - ful - ly leads; Bring - ing peace to my
 look to the Shep - herd, His pres - ence is there; Bring - ing peace to my



soul, _____ as His love makes me whole. Sure - ly good - ness and
 soul, _____ as His love makes me whole.



mer - cy shall fol - low me, fol - low me all the days of my



life. Sure - ly good - ness and mer - cy shall fol - low



me, all my life. _____

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please stand

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

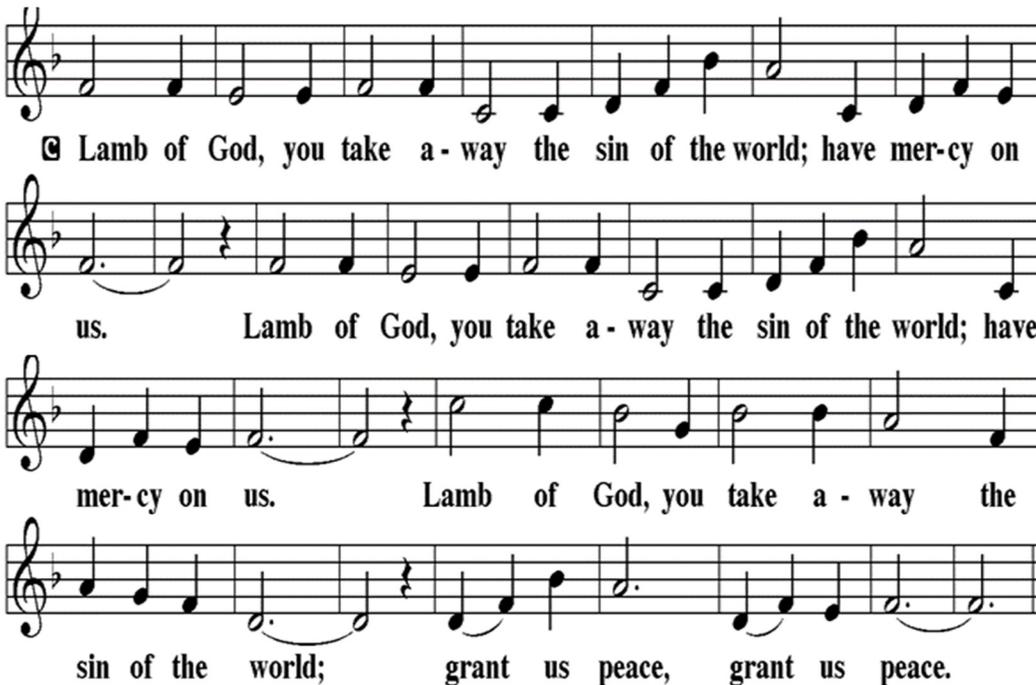
PRAYERS of DISTRIBUTION

(At this service of worship, we receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion through the distribution of the elements blessed at a previous celebration. Our Lay Distributors of Holy Communion were selected by the congregational council, received instruction, and were appointed by our synodical bishop. They will serve this congregation during times of pastoral vacancy so that we may continue to receive communion as Christ's body here at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church.)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

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.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION HYMN ~ ELW 484 *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

BLESSING

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**

SENDING

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN ~ ELW 764 *Have No Fear, Little Flock*

POSTLUDE