

Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ May 5, 2024

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd, Erie Pa 16506

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

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Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music



This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God

Please stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 880 *O God, Beyond All Praising* v.1,3

GREETING

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

HYMN of PRAISE ~ *Now the Feast and Celebration*

Refrain



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



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



God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together
A brief silence is kept before the prayer. **O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

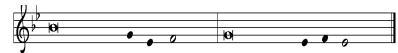
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: ACTS 10:44-48

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 98 **Sung Responsively** **Tone 7**



¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done ¹ marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have ¹ won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made ¹ known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight ¹ of the
nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹ house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹ of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, ¹ all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- ¹ joice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD ¹ with the harp, with the harp
and the ¹ voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound ¹ of the horn
shout with joy before the ¹ king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and ¹ all that fills it,
the world and those who ¹ dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers ¹ clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes
to ¹ judge the earth.**⁹The LORD will judge the ¹ world with
righteousness and the peo- ¹ ples with equity.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

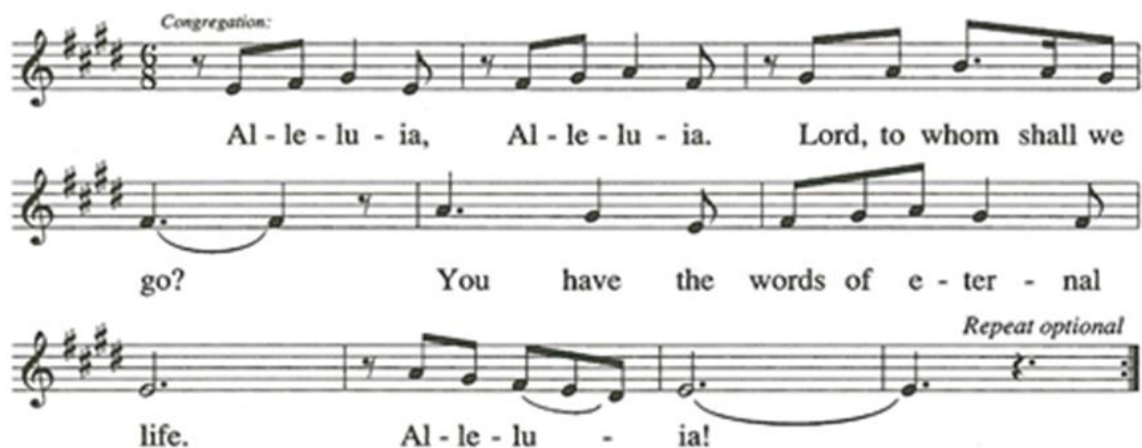
¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

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

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:



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

Repeat optional

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

The holy gospel according to John, Chapter 15. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

Please stand

HYMN of DAY ~ **WOV 664** *A New Commandment*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news. *A brief silence.*

Your Holy Spirit falls upon all who hear the word. Fill your church with the gifts of your Spirit and give understanding hearts to those who strengthen our commitments with our ecumenical and interreligious partners.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

You speak and the face of the earth is renewed. Revive your creation, that habitats and every kind of living thing might flourish. Protect endangered species and help us to care for all your creatures. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your world is divided and the nations rage. Grant wisdom and vision to world leaders, that they may seek justice, peace, and the good of all. Strengthen international partnerships and cooperation. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your children are in need. Comfort all those who suffer, especially those afflicted by anxiety, depression, and illness. Help us to be conduits of your love in our care for one another. We pray especially for: The Family of Pattie, Family & Friends of Diane, Chris, Ed, Harry, Bill & Carol, Dan & Peggy, Shirley, Don & Donna, Maury, Matt & Sally, Ruth, Stephanie & Family, Damian & Marcia, Pastor Karen & Dave, Tammy, Evelyn, Ruth.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your work is done in this place with our hands. Bless the ministries of this congregation that we may embody your love for the world. Inspire those who plan and lead worship, council members, committee members, and volunteers. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Your blessed saints now rest in you. Give us thankful hearts for those who have gone before us. At the last, bring us all together around your heavenly banquet table. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Please be seated

OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS

OFFERING ~ Choir: *Mercy Still* -C. and N Wesley/Arr. H. Sorenson

Please stand

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

Refrain

Congregation:



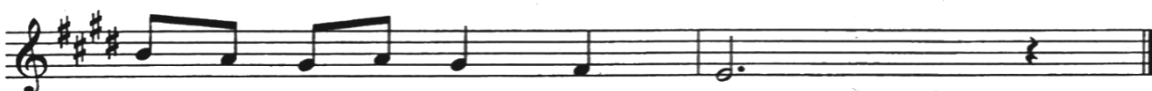
As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in-to one to be-come our bread;



so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be



gath-ered in-to one in-you.

Verses



1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst, _____

2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

To refrain



may we share the pres-ence of your love.

all cre-a-tion shares this feast with you.

OFFERING PRAYER

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

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:

Congregation:

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

THANKSGIVING at the TABLE

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

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread.
Come and eat at God's table.

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.

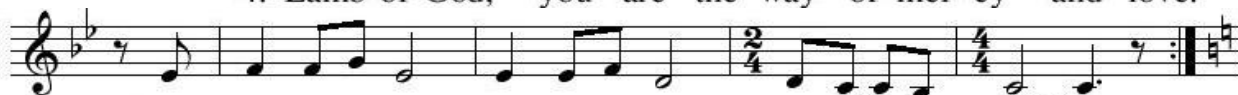
COMMUNION

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

LAMB of GOD



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS ~ ELW 479 *We Come to the Hungry Feast*
ELW 595 *Jesus Loves Me*
ELW 358 *Great God, Your Love Has Called Us*

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

Please Stand

SENDING

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

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN ~ ELW 836 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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PARISH NOTES ~ May 5, 2024

Phone: 814-868-8685 – Email: ahadministrator@hotmail.com

Website: <http://www.abidinghopeerie.org/> - FB: abidinghopelutheranchurch

Please pray for: Family & friends of Diane Farnsworth & Pattie Fromknecht (Carol Korn's niece). Ed Tropper, Chris Gallagher-Michele Rion's Dad, Dan (struggling with leukemia) & Peggy Kaeberlein, Harry Speakman (struggling with controlling his oxygen levels), Stephanie Volant and family, Sally and Matt (doing well at home after serious knee infection), Damian (recovering at home and feeling better) & Marcia Santabene, Don (struggling with Alzheimer's) and Donna Holder, Pastor Karen & Dave Parsh (now a resident at West Lake Woods), Ruth Hinkson (now a resident at Elmwood Gardens), Evelyn Senger (doing well at home), and Tammy Sharp McIntyre.

Sunday, May 5: Bible Study: 10:45a Choir: Warmup, 9a. Rehearsal, 1045a.

Wednesday, May 8: Featured speaker at **Lunch & Listen** this month is Doug Luthringer. Topic: How to Sell on E-Bay. Learn how to sell items yourself or Doug can do it for you!

Thursday, May 9: Erie Lutheran Conference **Ascension Day** service with Rev. Erik Young, St. Paul's preaching. 7:00pm @ Luther Memorial. Festive reception to follow.

Saturday, May 11: Lutherlyn CampBlast! 11a-4p. Free! Rain or Shine!
Indoor/outdoor activities: campfire, crafts, pony rides, nature activities, sports, hayrides, hikes, zipline etc. Lunch (12n-3p) and worship. No registration required. Just show up with family and friends. **Sign-up sheet** in narthex to **join caravan**, leaving **AHLC @ 845a**.

Wednesday, May 15: AHLC **Men's Night Out, 6:30p @ Chico's** east of Fairview on West Ridge Road. ALL are invited. No RSVP necessary.

Thursday, May 16: All ladies welcome to attend "**Ladies Night Out**", **5:30p** at **Madeline's**, Rte. 18 in Cranesville. Sign-up sheet in narthex or RSVP to Jacque Holmberg by Monday, May 13. Also, if you need a ride let her know. Rides leave AHLC @ 5:00p

Sunday, May 19, Pentecost: If you wish to place a **geranium on the altar**, order forms are on the table in the narthex or use the attached. Today is **last day** for request forms **in offering plate** or to the **office by tomorrow, May 6**.

Little Free Outdoor Library: Thank you! for the BEAUTIFUL hand-crafted bookmarks that have already been donated, as well as books. The library is being used effectively and a camera has been installed to monitor activity. The Little Free Library/Pantry organization has suggested that during warmer months to donate dried items for the pantry such as: rice meals, dried cereals, fruit filled bars (without honey/chocolate that will melt), dried fruit: cranberries/raisins/blueberries; peanut butter & jelly IN PLASTIC containers only, pretzels; vegetable chips/sticks & nuts.
– Connie Kerr-Vogt

CAMP LUTHERLYN is now open for registration. Camp begins June 16 for one-week sessions until August. **\$100 off-FIRST** time campers. Additional information for registration and weekly camp sessions is on table in narthex or go to www.lutherlyn.com/camp.

KAFP Project Dignity: **May** item, **shampoo**. Donations can be place in the basket on the shelf in the Heritage Room.

Bethany Outreach: Collection of used clothing and household items continues as well as collection of shoes (pairs only) in good condition for **The Chosen**. Baskets on the shelf in the Heritage Room.

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up and request forms are on the 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: Mon., Tues., 9:30a-3:30p. Wed., 9:30a-12:30p. For immediate pastoral assistance, call Pastor Karen, 814-881-3266.

Current Fund

March Income	\$11,183.00	Year to Date Income	\$29,473.89
March Expenses	\$11,311.03	Year to Date Expenses	\$34,125.98
March Difference	-\$128.03	Year to Date Difference	-\$4,652.09
YTD Budget \$33,491.36			

Worship Leaders ~ May 5, 2024

Videographer	Penny Gresh
Greeter/Coffee	Cindy Filson
Lector/Prayers	Judi Pacileo
Assisting Min/Acolyte	Donna Holder
Communion Cups	Connie Kerr Vogt
Communion Tray	Emily / Kayla Miller
Presenter	Carolyn Hayes
Presenter	Jeanne Tropper
Usher	Rick Filson
Usher	Andy Saska
Counters	Penny & Diane



**Geraniums for Pentecost Sunday
May 19, 2024**

\$3.50 for a 4½-inch pot containing one plant with gold foil wrap. Place the **form** with **your payment in the offering plate by Sunday, May 5** or **to the office by Monday, May 6.** *Thank you.*

PLEASE PRINT

Given to the glory of God:

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

In Celebration of _____

By _____

of plants ordered: _____ **\$ enclosed:** _____

If you wish to donate your geranium(s) for the church property, please check here _____. ***Number of plants*** _____



Pentecost Sunday

KEARSARGE FOOD PANTRY

I would like to make a donation....

\$ _____

***Use the above form to complete your KAFP donation request.
Please return in offering plate by May 12 or to the office by May 13.***