

Fifth Sunday of Epiphany ~ February 8, 2026

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music



Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

WELCOME

We invite you to quietly prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

(Please turn off your cell phone)

PRELUDE ~ Choir: Sing the Song of Praise -E. Butler

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God

Please stand

CONFESSiON and FORGIVENESS

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

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

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

We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

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

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

GATHERING SONG ~ ELW 532 *Gather Us In*

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

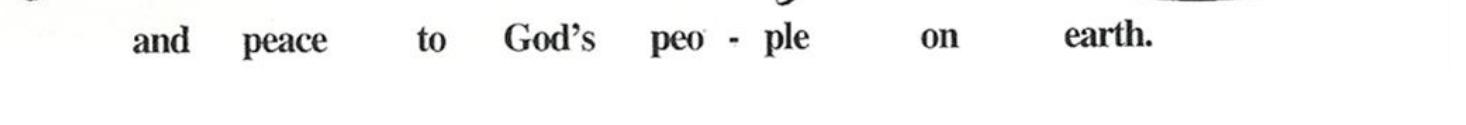
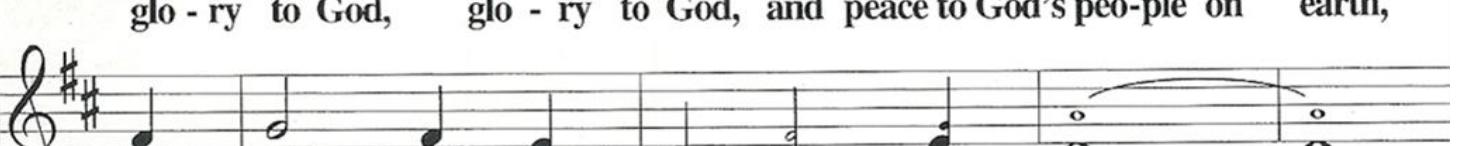
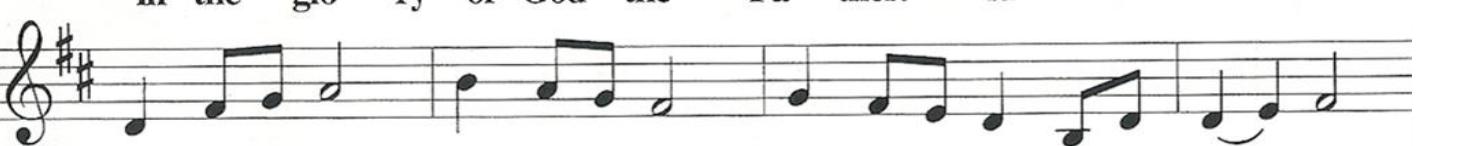
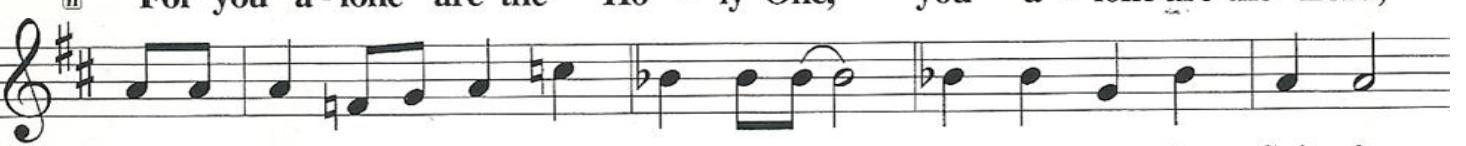
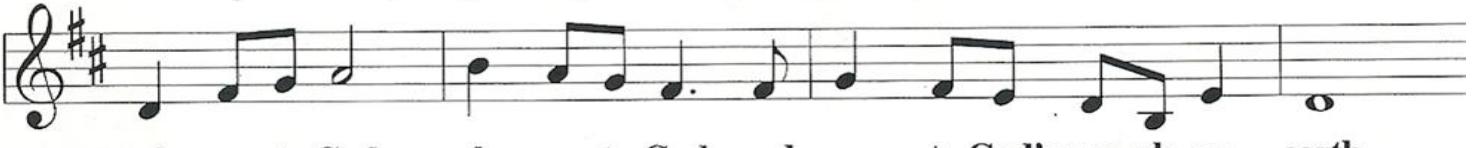
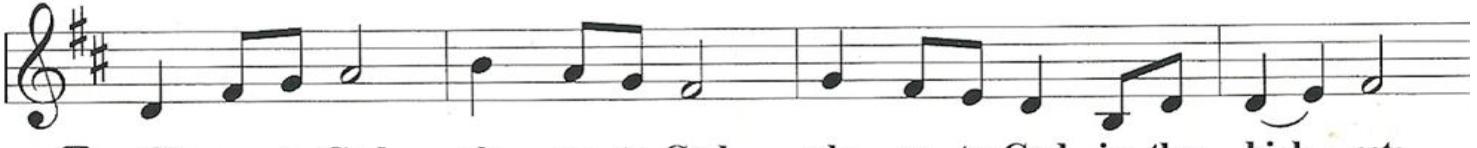
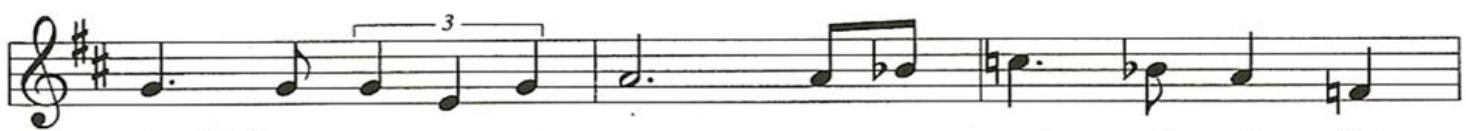
The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major, 2/4 time. The lyrics are as follows:

C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

I Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

C Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together. **Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

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

Please be seated

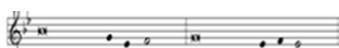
FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-9a

¹ Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.

⁴ You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. ^{9a} Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

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

PSALM: 112-1-9 Sung Responsively



Tone 7

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who I fear the LORD and have great delight in I God's commandments!

² **Their descendants will be mighty I in the land; the generation of the upright I will be blessed.**

³ Wealth and riches will be I in their house, and their righteousness will I last forever.

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness I for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full I of compassion.**

⁵ It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.

**6 For they will never be shaken;
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**

⁷ They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

**8 Their heart is established and will not shrink,
until they see their desire upon their enemies.**

9 They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-12

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God. ⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him"—¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

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

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

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

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:13-20

The holy gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 5. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
[Jesus said:] ¹³"You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven¹⁷"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.¹⁹Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

Please Stand

HYMN of the DAY ~ WOV 753 You Are the Seed

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

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. Your church does ministry in many and various ways. Keep the baptized true to the mind of Christ, that our works and witness bring hope to a troubled world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your marvelous creation cries out to you. Restore polluted air, soil, and water sources to wholeness. Guard honeybees, elephants, great whales and songbirds from harm, and renew the face of the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your people in every nation suffer injustice, poverty, and the threat of violence. Guide those in authority to govern with compassion, and bring peace to war zones. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your blessings are poured out for all in need. Help and heal any who experience trauma, discrimination, disease, hunger, abuse, or persecution. Comfort those who are sick or grieving. We pray especially for: Pastor Karen, Peggy, Weston, Christine P., Kathy C., Brendon, Judy Z., Darcée, Ava, Ed, Matt, Carolyn, & Elliott, Paul, Josh, Adrianna, Titus, Lauren, Christina S., Jackie S, Harry & Susan, Dick & Diana, Candy & Arch, Leslie, Michele & Sue, Bob, Kathi, Maury & Linda, Damian & Marcia, Don & Donna, and Little Library requests. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Your wisdom guides this congregation and its ministries. Sustain our ordained leaders, staff, lay leaders, and volunteers. Form us to be salt and light for the neighbors we serve, following the example of Christ.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated

MEAL

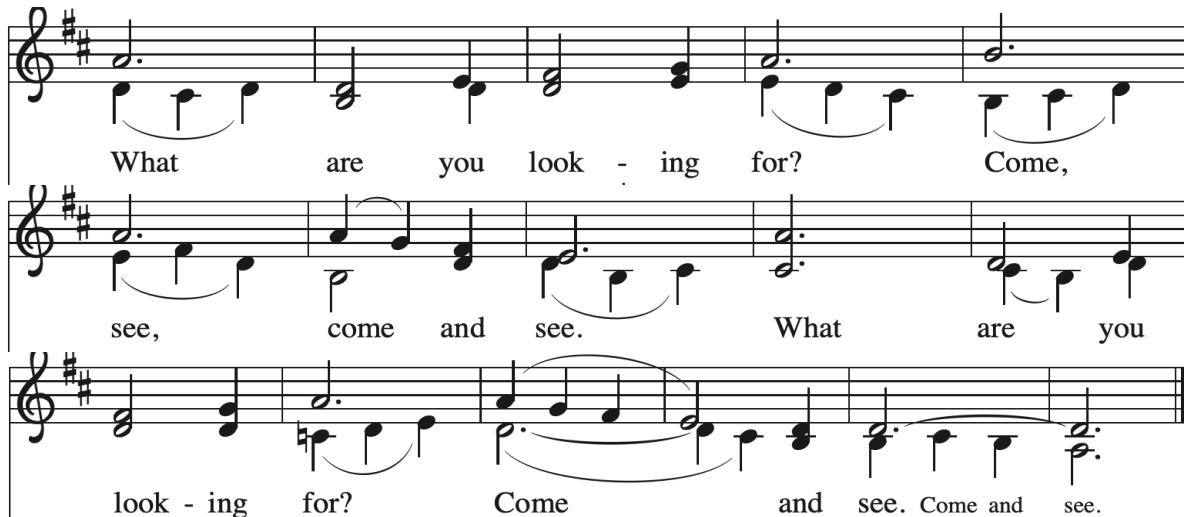
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ *Come and See*



What are you looking for? Come,
see, come and see. What are you
looking for? Come and see. Come and see.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. **God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

Please Stand

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

G Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING at the TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name....Amen.

Please be seated

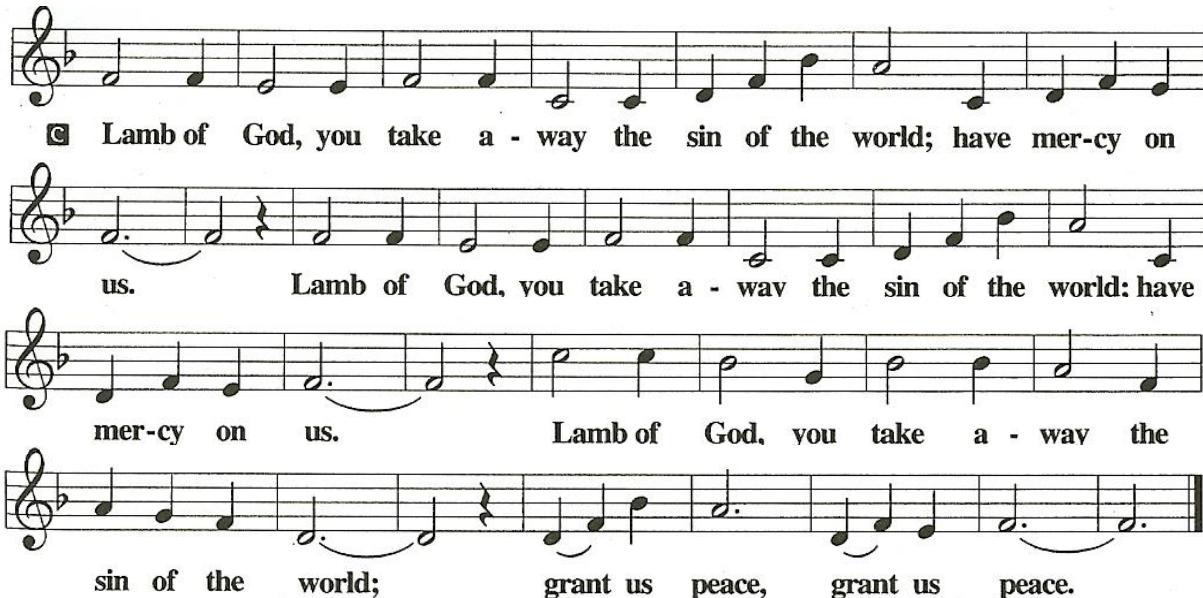
INVITATION to COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION

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

LAMB of GOD



C 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 HYMNS ~ ELW 717 *Let Justice Flow Like Streams*
Instrumental Meditation

PASTORAL BLESSING

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

PRAYER after COMMUNION

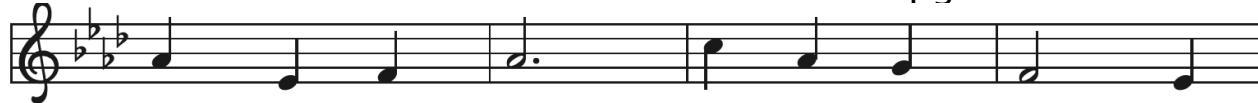
Let us pray. **God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please stand

SENDING

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

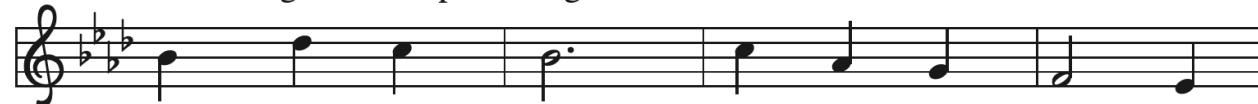
SENDING HYMN ~ *God's Work Our Hands* pg.12



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free. hum - bled and hon - ored.



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - answer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - - - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - - - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - - - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - - - pel.

BLESSING

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

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

PARISH NOTES ~ February 8, 2026

Pastor Karen Parsh – 814-881-3266 Pastorparsh@gmail.com
ahadministrator@hotmail.com - www.abidinghopeerie.org –
FB: abidinghopelutheranchurch

Please keep in your prayers: Pastor Karen Parsh, Weston Bucci, Peggy Kaeberlein, Pat Kerr, Christine Petrone, Kathy Cirillo, Brandon Rock, Judy Ziacik, Darcée Anthony, Ava Whitely, Ed Whitbred, Matt, Carolyn & Elliott Marriotti, Paul Pacileo, Josh, Adrianna, Titus, Lauren Steele, Christina Sonthemier, Jackie Seib, Dick & Diana Stoker, Harry & Susan Speakman, Leslie Gallagher-Kelly & Michele Rion & Sue, Candy & Arch Watkins, Kathy Sinnott, Bob McDaniel, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Donna Holder and Little Library requests.

Sunday, February 8: Worship 930a ~ Choir: 9a & 1045a ~ Bible Study 11a

TODAY: "Souper Bowl of Caring" donations to help **KAFP/Second Harvest Food**.

Tuesday, February 10: Anyone is welcome to attend a meeting @ **1230p** to discuss this year's **EASTER FLOCK** event. Scheduled for **Saturday, March 28, volunteers are needed**. **Raffle baskets and monetary donations** will also be needed for this outreach event for children. **Second meeting, Tuesday Feb 24.**

Thursday February 12: Share & Care @ 1p. All are welcome to join this gathering for **meaningful discussions about God, Daily Life & Life Eternal** with Pastor Karen & Damian Santabene.

Friday, February 13: Night to Shine, prom-style event @ The Shrine Club **needs volunteers**. **Informational graphic below & flyers on table** in narthex.

Sunday, February 15: Worship 930a ~ Choir: 1045a ~ Bible Study 11a

Wednesday, February 18: Ash Wednesday services. 12:00n @ New Hope ... 6:30p @ AHLC.

KAFP Food Drive: February – cereal. Baskets in Heritage Room for donations.

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, 9:30a-3:30p. Wednesday, 9:30a-12:30p. For immediate pastoral assistance, Saturday-Thursday, call Pastor Karen, 814-881-3266. **Friday's** please contact Rick Penn, 814-737-9974

WORSHIP LEADERS ~ February 8, 2026

Videographer	Analee Cree
Greeter/Coffee	Nancy Cunning
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Bob Hicks
Lector/Prayers	Cindi Reid
Communion Cups	Nancy Cunning
Communion Tray	Michele Rion
Presenter	Nancy Cunning
Presenter	Diana Stoker
Usher	Rich Filson
Usher	Volunteer
Counters	Rich & Nancy