

# Seventh Sunday Epiphany ~ February 23, 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



*Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt.  
Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides  
us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness  
to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such  
merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having  
put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit.  
It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.*

**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, 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.**

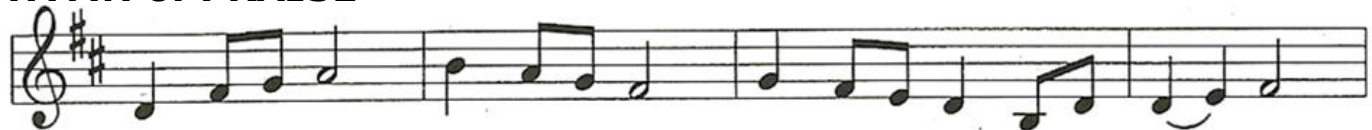
Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 482** *I Come with Joy*

**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**



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



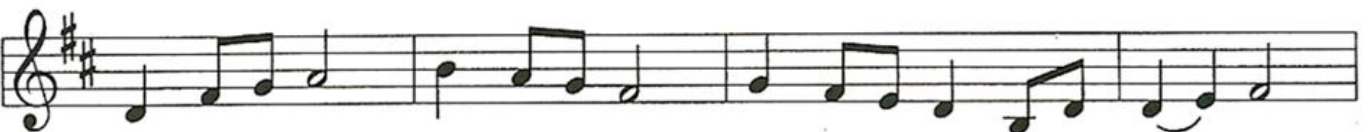
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ 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.



☐ 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.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

**☐** 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.

**||** For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

**☐** 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,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## **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 Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father 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: Genesis 45:3-11, 15**

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

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

**PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40 Sung Responsively** 

<sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by | evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

<sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither | like the grass,  
and like the green grass | fade away.**

<sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;  
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

<sup>4</sup> **Take delight | in the LORD,  
who shall give you your | heart's desire.**

<sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD,  
and see what | God will do.

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light  
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**

<sup>7</sup> Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds  
in | evil schemes.

<sup>8</sup> **Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.**

<sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall | be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

<sup>10</sup> **In a little while the wicked shall | be no more;  
even if you search out their place, they will | not be there.**

<sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall pos- | sess the land;  
they will delight in abun- | dance of peace.

<sup>39</sup> **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from | you, O LORD;  
you are their stronghold in | time of trouble.**

<sup>40</sup> You, O LORD, will help them and | rescue them;  
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them, because in  
you | they seek refuge.

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**

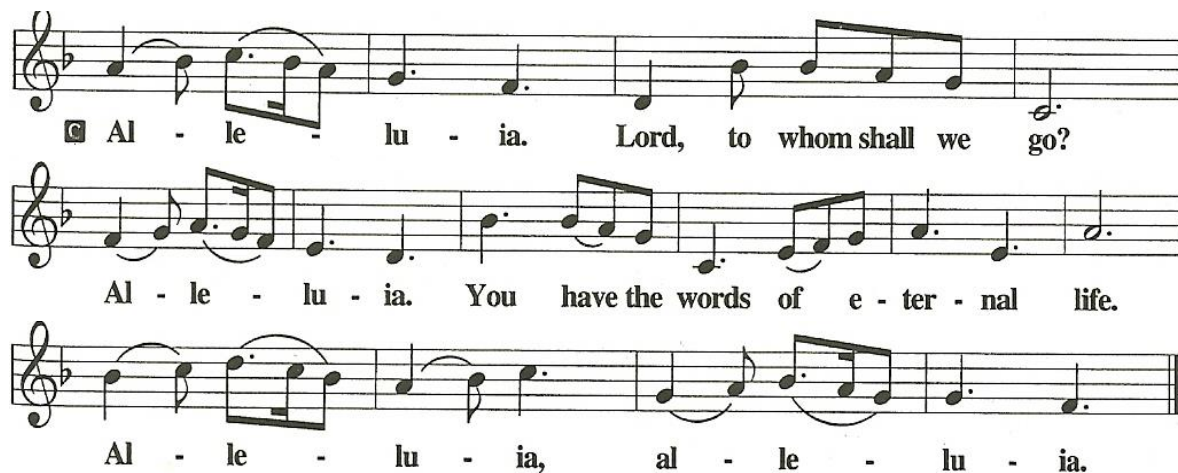
<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" <sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. <sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. <sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. **cont'd**

<sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven. <sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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: Luke 6:27-38**

The holy gospel according to Luke, Chapter 6. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.

**cont'd**

<sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. <sup>37</sup> "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.

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

*Please be seated*

**SERMON** ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

*Please stand*

**HYMN of the DAY** ~ **ELW 615** *In All Our Grief*

## **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**

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

Surprising God, you call us to love our enemies and to show kindness in the face of cruelty. Let our actions be a shining witness of your overwhelming grace for all. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

As animals hibernate and fields lay dormant, let them be a reminder that life and faith are not static but always changing and growing. May we, with all creation, trust that the ending of one thing promises life in a new way.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for leaders and policymakers who work to reduce violence in our nations, cities, and towns. Give your wisdom and discernment amid heated arguments and differing viewpoints. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the victims of abuse and violence. Provide safe shelter and new beginnings to those experiencing domestic violence and dangerous situations. Enfold with love all who seek your healing care. We pray especially for: Pr. Bill, Norma, Maury & Linda, Desi, Shelly, Dan, Ellie, Court, Dick, Judy J., Damian & Marcia, Pat K., Marjorie, Ron F., Larry & Barb, Tom, Esther, Judy N., 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 of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Empower our faith communities to be signs of your gracious love. Bless the local ministries of parish nursing and caregiving, that they will be a voice for those in need in our communities. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for the enduring witness of those who have died before us. May their lives in you provide a witness of your everlasting grace.

God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

*All share the Peace of the Lord with one another.*

*Please be seated*



## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### **OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS**

**OFFERING ~ Choir Anthem:** *The Shepherd Psalm* -M.Beall/J.Carter

**OFFERTORY HYMN ~** *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.



Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we



of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,



Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

### **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.**

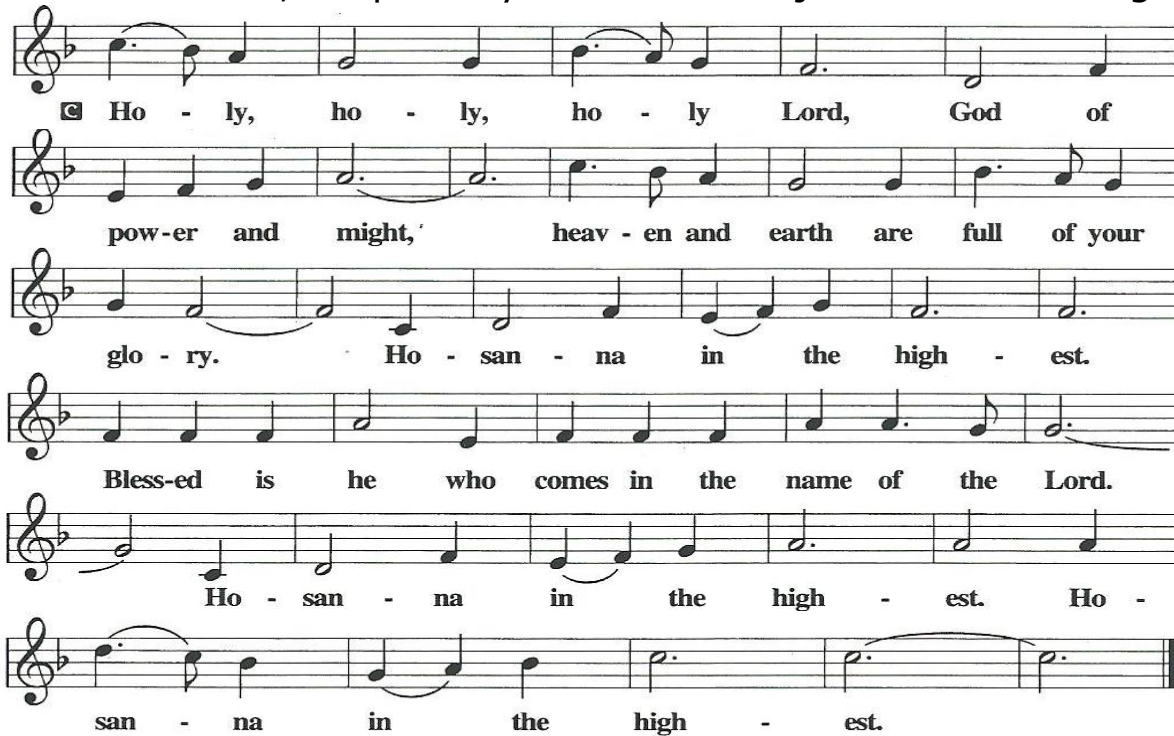
*Please Stand*

### **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:



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, 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

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.

## 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 608** *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*  
INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION

**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. **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 ~** *Wonderful Grace of Jesus* pg.14

**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. Proclaim this good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE ~**

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**PARISH NOTES ~ February 23, 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 Burek, Pastor Bill Cox (Prince of Peace), Desi Davis, Shelly West, Dan Kaeberlein, Damian and Marcia Santabene, Court Catty, Dick Brucker, Ellie Cherpak, Evelyn Senger, Judy Johnston, Pat Kerr, 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.

**Thanking the congregation for prayers in their time of need:** Rich Filson, and Carolyn Mariotti & Family

**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, February 23: Worship, 930a ~ Choir: 900 & 1045a**

**Sunday, February 23: Bible Study: 1045a ~ *Finding the Joy in Luke***

**Sunday, March 2: Worship, 930a ~ Choir: 900**

**This morning, in the Fellowship Hall following worship, lunch bags (about 60) will be filled with fruit, sandwiches, snacks, and prayer squares, etc. for **"Our Neighbors' Seasonal Overflow Shelter"** to feed people who are cold and hungry. **If you're available your help will be appreciated.****

**Sunday, March 2: MARDI GRAS PARTY in the F.H. @ 1100a. Snacks, Games, Tureen Lunch. Music by the **Sax-O-Friends Quartet, 12:30p,** in the **sanctuary.** **Sign-up form,** with additional information, in the narthex.**

**Wednesday, March 5**

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES**

**12:15p & 6:00p @ Abiding Hope ~ 2:30p @ New Hope**

**Little Free Library/Pantry: Even on the harshest of winter days, visitors stop at the AH library/food pantry. Appreciated food donations: **individual hot cereal packages; hot chocolate packages; dried grain meals pasta, quinoa, rice, noodles etc.; dried soup mixes; peanut butter/jam in PLASTIC jars; crackers, small packages of nuts/trail mix; granola bars.****

**Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up sheet and request forms on 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: Monday, Tuesday, 930a-330p. Wednesday, 930a-1230p. For **immediate pastoral assistance,** call **Pastor Karen,** 814-881-3266.**

**Worship Leaders ~ February 23, 2025**

Videographer	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Nancy Cuning
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Jeanne Tropper
Lector/Prayers	Jacque Holmberg
Communion Cups	John Holmberg
Communion Tray	Connie Kerr-Vogt
Presenter	Michele Rion
Presenter	Nancy Cuning
Usher	Andy Saska
Usher	Rick Penn
Counters	Nancy & Lois

## Wonderful Grace of Jesus



1. Won - der - ful grace of Je - sus, great - er than all my sin.  
2. Won - der - ful grace of Je - sus, reach - ing to all the lost.  
3. Won - der - ful grace of Je - sus, reach - ing the most de - filed.



How shall my tongue de - scribe it? Where shall its praise be - gin?  
By it I have been par - doned, saved to the ut - ter - most.  
By its trans - form - ing pow - er mak - ing him God's dear child.



Tak - ing a - way my bur - den, set - ting my spir - it free; For the  
Chains have been tom a - sun - der, giv - ing me lib - er - ty, For the  
Pur - chas - ing peace and heav - en for all e - ter - ni - ty, For the



won - der - ful grace of Je - sus reach - es me. Won - der - ful the match - less grace of  
won - der - ful grace of Je - sus reach - es me.  
won - der - ful grace of Je - sus reach - es me.



Je - sus; Deep - er than the might - y roll - ing sea. High - er than the moun - tain,



spar - kling like a foun - tain; All - suf - fi - cient grace for e - ven me.



Broad - er than the scope of my trans - gres - sions; Great - er far than all my sin and shame. O



mag - ni - fy the pre - cious name of Je - sus; Praise His name!