

First Sunday of Advent ~ November 30, 2025

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music



Advent is about the "coming days." God's people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a "righteous Branch to spring up for David." The Thessalonians awaited "the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints." Jesus' contemporaries hoped for the time "to stand before the Son of Man." With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

WELCOME

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens."

Sunday service is a time for worship.

Please socialize before and after service.

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

(Please turn off your cell phone)

PRELUDE

GATHERING

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

Please stand

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

We confess the fear, greed, and self-

centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression.

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you.

Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 260 *The King Shall Come*

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

ADVENT READING and CANDLE LIGHTING

Today we light the first candle of Advent, the candle of Hope. We put our hope in the one to come, the promised one who comes from God to bring good news of salvation. We hope in the one who will lead us to walk in the light of the LORD. We hope he will not let us live in dark valleys, but on the high mountain of God. We light this candle in Hope.

On this day, we remember to hopefully look for the coming of Christ.

WOV 630 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* pg.4

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

PRAYER of the DAY

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

A brief silence is kept before the prayer. **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

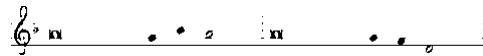
Please be seated

FIRST READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.³Many peoples shall come and say," Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths. "For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem."⁴He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

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

PSALM: 122 Sung Responsively**Tone 9**

¹ I was glad when they | said to me,
"Let us go to the house | of the LORD."

² **Now our | feet are standing
within your gates, | O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built | as a city
that is at unity | with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD.**

⁵ For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:
"May they pros- | per who love you.**

⁷ Peace be with- | in your walls
and quietness with- | in your towers.

⁸ **For the sake of my kindred | and companions,
I pray for | your prosperity.**

⁹ **Because of the house of the | LORD our God,
I will seek to | do you good."**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:11-14

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew Chapter 24. **Glory to you, O Lord**
[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

Please stand

HYMN of the DAY ~ *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

Refrain



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

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

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation. God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing. We pray especially for: Friends & Family of Monica. Also, Nancy, Tom, Jackie S, Harry & Susan, Ed W., Dick, Pat, Ed & Jeanne, Candy & Arch, Leslie & Michele & Sue, Gail, Joy, Shirley, Karen, Dan & Peggy, Bob, Kathi, Maury & Linda, Damian & Marcia, Don & Donna, and Little Library requests. Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ 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 ~ Choir: A Tiny Child Will Come -Besig/Price

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ Emmanuel

Em-man - u - el Em-man - u - el His name is
called _____ Em - man - u - el: _____ God with us, _____
_____ re - vealed in us! _____ His name is
called _____ Em - man - u - el.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of hope, you fill the hungry with good things. Give us hopeful hearts and open hands to receive your love and share our abundance, that all may be fed. In the name of the one who sustains all life, Jesus Christ, our love. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

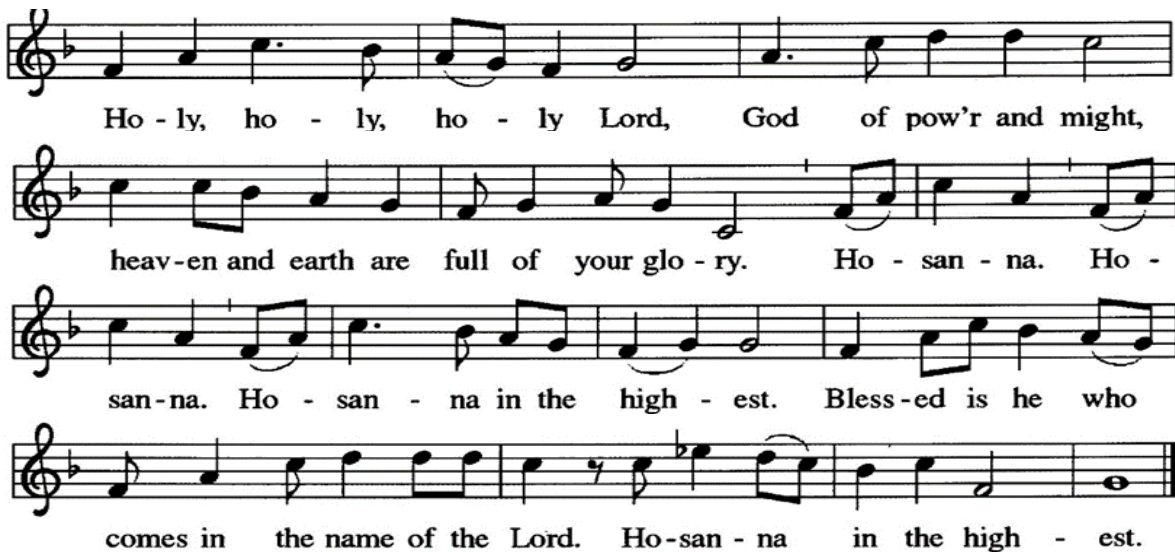
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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 to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, the one who was and is and is to come, we praise you, we bless you, we thank you for your presence among us in your Son Jesus, the bringer of peace. Hear us when we cry. Make all things new. Heal the nations. Widen and deepen the imagination of our hearts. Give us rest in you.

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.

Place in our hearts the thrill of hope, O God, you who are Alpha and Omega, beginning and end, that we may all know your restoration and love in this world and the next, now and forever. Amen.

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

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light. **Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

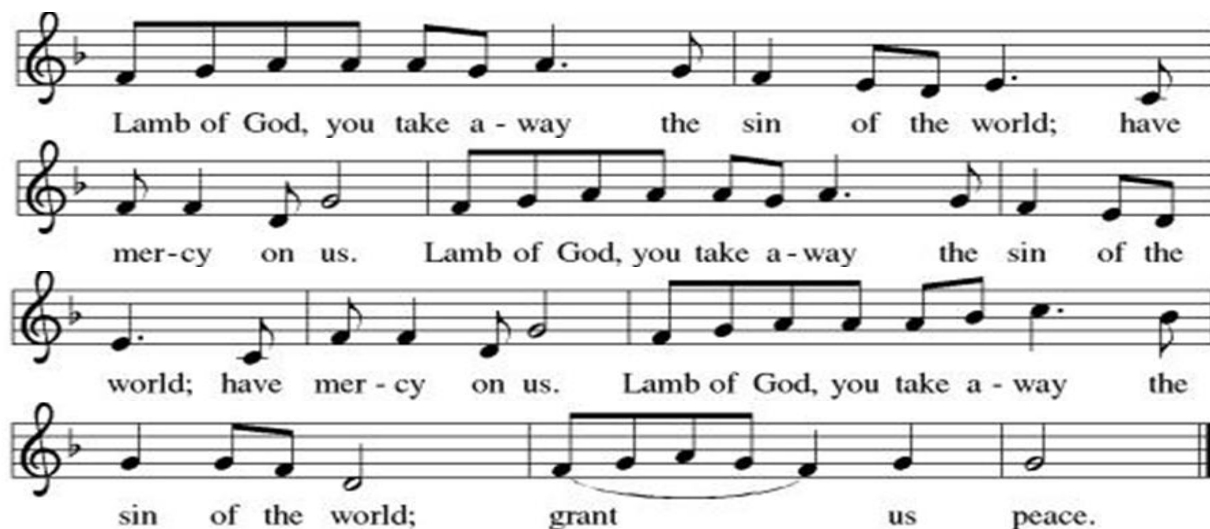
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Amen.

Please be seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

LAMB of GOD



COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMNS ~ ELW 438 *My Lord, What a Morning*
Instrumental Meditation

Please stand

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: **Holy one, you have blessed us with your very self. Make us one body in you, living into the mystery of your goodness and mercy, now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

May the God of hope guide you, may the way of peace sustain you, may the warmth of joy gather you, in the name of the one who creates, redeems, and sustains us. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ~ ELW 244 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. live in hope. **Thanks be to God**

POSTLUDE

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PARISH NOTES ~ November 30, 2025

Rev. Karen Parsh ~ 814-881-3266

814-868-8685 ~ ahadministrator@hotmail.com

FB: [abidinghopelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/abidinghopelutheranchurch) www.abidinghopeerie.org

Please keep in your prayers: The family and friends of Monica Fritchman, Also members and friends: Nancy McKinstry, Tom Cirillo, Jackie Seib, Ed Whitbred, Dick Stoker, Harry & Susan Speakman, Pat Kerr, Gail Boyce, Candy & Arch Watkins, Leslie Gallagher-Kelly & Michele Rion & Sue, Karen Shick, Shirley Englert, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Dan & Peggy Kaeberlein, Bob McDaniel, Kathy Sinnott, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Donna Holder and Little Library requests.

Thank You Notes

Thank you to all for the lovely surprise of birthday cards for my 95th birthday from my church family. How I enjoyed each one! ♥Pat Kerr

Volunteers for Holy Trinity Sloppy Joes Dinner

Once again, folks from Abiding Hope were able to bring smiles and food for hungry bellies to our neighbors in need. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and/or cookies to bring this hot meal to people who can use our extra support, encouragement and prayer.

Sunday, November 30: Choir ~ 9a & 10:45a .. Bible Study 10:45a

Sunday, December 7: Choir ~ 9a & 10:45a .. No Bible Study

Sunday, December 7: Rabbi Robert Morais ~ Guest Speaker

Pastor's Sabbath Day: Rev. Parsh will **not** be available to **answer/return phone calls** or **read/reply to emails** on **Fridays**. If a pastoral emergency arises, please **contact Rick Penn @ 814-737-9974**

Today is World Hunger Sunday: Financial donations to help the needs of the hungry are welcome. **Envelopes are available in the pews** for cash/check donations. If a check, make it payable to Abiding Hope, with ELCA World Hunger on the memo line and place your gift in the offering plate. **Thank you for your generosity.**

Prayer Shawls: Will not meet during December.

Thursday Afternoon Care & Share: Next gathering **12/04**.

Christmas Poinsettias ~ \$8.50ea. Forms in narthex. **Deadline - December 2.**

Saturday, December 6: Blue Christmas Service, 3p. Members of AHLIC are invited to a service of remembrance @ **New Hope**. If you wish, bring an angel for the tree to remember your loved one(s). **Contact Kristin Woodring by 12/01 @ 814.323.9490** to include name(s) in the service.

Bethesda Christmas: Abiding Hope is once again helping make Christmas Wishes come true. **Please see flyer in narthex. Return gifts, unwrapped in gift bags,** to the church by **Sunday, December 7.**

Thursday, December 11: Grief Support for the Holidays. Open to the public **Fellowship Hall @ 6p**. Guidance, open discussion and resources.

Sunday December 14: Following Worship. Congregational Meeting to Approve budget, Elect Council Members, Elect Laypersons as representatives for 2026 NWSYNOD Assembly and the Erie Conference of Lutheran Churches.

Sunday, December 14: Following worship and the Congregational meeting, **all are welcome** to the **Fellowship Hall** to **help prepare 60 meal bags** for the homeless who stay at the Overflow Shelter during the winter. Thank you to the Thrivent Action Team for funding this project. Supplies will be set up in to prepare sandwiches etc.

KAFP ADVENT GIVING 2025: Begins November 30 to December 21.

Donation container and information in narthex.

Sensor Switches have been installed in the restrooms for the lights to turn on automatically when entering...**HOWEVER, Please TURN OFF** when exiting.

WORSHIP LEADERS ~ November 30, 2025

Videographer	Analee Cree
Greeter/Coffee	June Morey
Lector/Prayers	Analee Cree
Assiting Minister/Acolyte	Jeanne Tropper
Communion Cups	Penny Gresh
Communion Tray	Carol Korn
Presenter	Michele Rion
Presenter	Carolyn Hayes
Usher	Rick Penn
Usher	Volunteer
Counters	Andy & Rich