

Twentieth Sunday of Pentecost ~ October 11, 2026

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd, Erie Pa 16506

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music



It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

WELCOME

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

(please turn off your cell phone)

A Service for the Blessing of Pets of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

PRELUDE ~ CHOIR: *Brother James' Air* arr. G. Jacob - Psalm 23

GATHERING

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

Please stand

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure. **Amen.**

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

Merciful God,

We confess that we have sinned. We have hurt our community.

We have squandered your blessings. We have hoarded your bounty.

In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Righteous God,

We confess that we have sinned. We have failed to be honest.

We have lacked the courage to speak. We have spoken falsely.

In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven

in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

We worship this Sunday with all the creatures we love. We join the Psalmists and rejoice with all living things. We sing with all the birds and animals that make our lives richer because of their presence.

GATHERING HYMN ~ *Only By Grace*

CHORUS

On - ly by grace can we en - ter, on - ly by grace can we stand;
not by our hu - man en - deav - or, but by the blood of the Lamb.
In - to Your pres - ence You call us, You call us to come.

In - to Your pres - ence, You draw us, and now by Your grace we come,

Last time to Coda ⊕

BRIDGE

now by Your grace we come. Lord, if You mark our trans - gres
sions, who would stand? Thanks to Your grace we are cleansed

1, 3

2, 4

D.C. al Coda

by the blood of the Lamb.

29 ⊕ *Coda*

now by Your grace we come.

ENDING

Now by Your grace we come, now by Your grace we come. —

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 ~ *Sing of the Lord's Goodness*

Verses



1. Sing of the Lord's good-ness, Fa - ther of all wis - dom,
2. Pow - er he has wield - ed, hon - or is his gar - ment,
3. Cour-age in our dark-ness, com - fort in our sor - row,
4. Praise him with your sing - ing, praise him with the trum - pet,

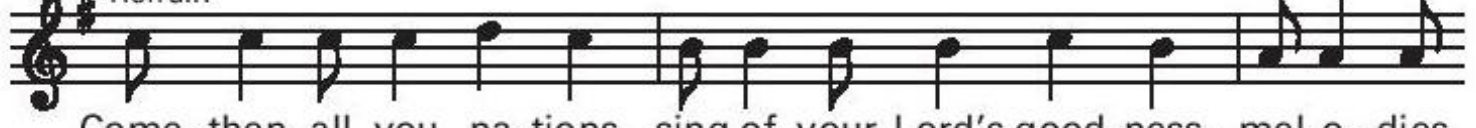


1. come to him and bless his name. Mer - cy he has shown us,
2. ris - en from the snares of death. His word he has spo - ken,
3. Spir - it of our God most high; so - lace for the wear - y,
4. praise God with the lute and harp; praise him with the cym-bals,



1. his love is for - ev - er, faith - ful to the end of days.
2. one bread he has bro - ken, new life he now gives to all.
3. par - don for the sin - ner, splen - dor of the liv - ing God.
4. praise him with your danc - ing, praise God till the end of days.

Refrain



Come, then, all you na-tions, sing of your Lord's good-ness, mel-o - dies



of praise and thanks to God. Ring out the Lord's glo-ry, praise him with



your mu - sic, wor-ship him and bless his name.

Litany of Thanksgiving

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea;

We thank you, Lord.

For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of your children;

We thank you, Lord.

For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;

We thank you, Lord.

For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;

We thank you, Lord.

For the trust you have shown in giving our pets into our care, that each pet here may be treasured with care;

We pray to you, Lord.

That we may love and honor all your works, O God;

We pray to you, Lord.

May we continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation. Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 1:24-31

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So, God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. **cont'd**

And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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

PSALM 104:11-26 Sung Responsively



Tone 1

All the animals drink their | fill from them,
and the wild donkeys | quench their thirst.

**Beside them the birds of the air | make their nests;
among the branches they | lift their voice.**

From your dwelling on high, you wa- | ter the mountains;
the earth is satisfied with the fruit | of your works.

**You make grass grow for the cattle, and plants to serve |
humankind; that they may bring forth food | from the earth,**

Wine to gladden human hearts, oil to | make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the | human heart.

**The trees of the LORD are | well supplied,
the cedars of Lebanon | that you planted,**

In which the birds | build their nests,
while the stork makes the fir | trees its dwelling.

**The high hills belong to the | mountain goats,
and the stony cliffs are a refuge | for the badgers.**

You made the moon to | mark the seasons,
and the sun knows the time | of its setting.

**You bring on darkness that it | may be night,
in which all the beasts of the | forest prowl.**

The lions roar | for their prey
seeking their | food from God.

**The sun rises, and | they withdraw
and lay themselves down | in their dens.**

People go forth | to their work
and to their labor un- | til the evening.

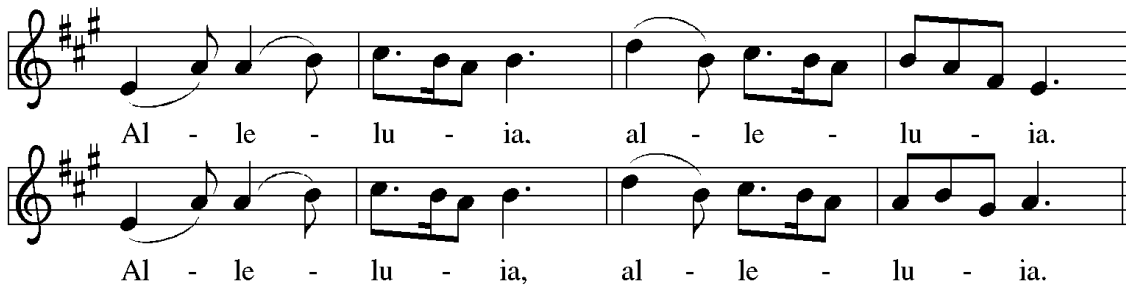
**How manifold are your | works, O LORD! In wisdom you have made
them all; the earth is full | of your creatures.**

Yonder is the sea, great and wide, with its swarms too man- | y to number,
living things both | small and great.

**There go the ships | to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you made for the | sport of it.**

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ Celtic Alleluia



GOSPEL: John 1:1-5,14-18

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, Chapter 1. **Glory to you, Lord.**

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh .. For God so Loved the World, that He gave.

Please stand

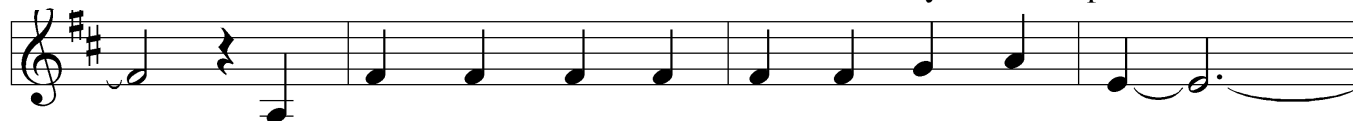
HYMN of the DAY ~ *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* pg. 7



Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

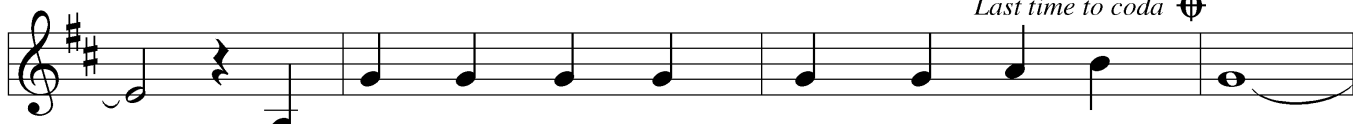


1 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
 2 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.
 4 Make me a chan - nel of your peace.



Where there is ha - tred, let me bring your love;
 Where there's de - spair in life, let me bring hope;
 It is in par - don - ing that we are par - doned,

Last time to coda ⊕



where there is in - ju - ry, your par - don, Lord;
 where there is dark - ness, on - ly light;
 in giv - ing of our - selves that we re -



and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 and where there's sad - ness, ev - er joy.



3 O Mas - ter, grant that I may nev - er seek so



much to be con - soled as to con - sole, to be



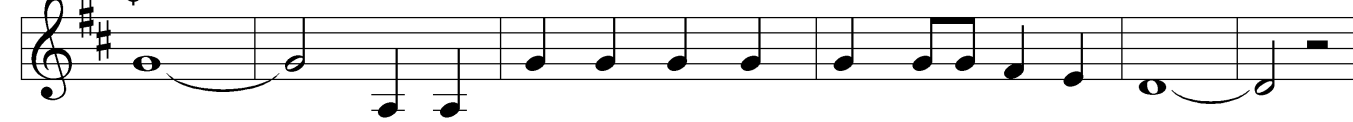
un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be

D.C. (stanza 4) al coda



loved as to love with all my soul.

⊕ *Coda*



ceive, and in dy - ing that we're born to e - ter - nal life.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world. *A brief silence.*

Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering. We pray especially for: John H., Vicki, Jaxon, Mary Grace, Mary Alice, Megan, Larry K, Donna G., Jeff, , Brian & Penny, Shirley, Candy & Arch, Sam, Priscila, Don, Joan, Pat K., Connie, Christine P., Cheryl, Ed & Jeanne, Cindy & Rich, Harry & Susan, Dick & Diana, Kathi, Maury & Linda, Don & Donna, Damian & Marcia, the Little Library visitors, and for all in our hearts. . Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of Saint Francis for Animals

God our Heavenly Father, you created the world to serve humanity's needs and to lead them to you. By our own fault we have lost the beautiful relationship which we once had with all your creation.

Help us to see that by restoring our relationship with you we will also restore it with all your creation. Give us the grace to see all animals as gifts from you and to treat them with respect for they are your creation.

We pray for all animals who are suffering as a result of our neglect.

Amen.

May the order you originally established be once again restored to the whole world through the merits and mediation of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you now and forever. **Amen.**

O Lord, we pause and give thanks for the memories of those pets we have lost. We remember with thanksgiving the ways in which they enriched our lives. We pray for the owners who continue to mourn their loss. **Amen.**

Creator God, we give thanks that all creatures great and small belong to you. We praise you for giving us the animals, birds and fish which fill your world. We give thanks for the pets that bring us joy and that help teach us the value of unconditional love. Grant that we may be good caretakers of all our pets, that they too may know the joy of unconditional love. May our shared lives together be lived to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing of Pets

Pet's name....may God bless you and your human family. Amen

PEACE

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

Please be seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Please stand

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

OFFERING PRAYER

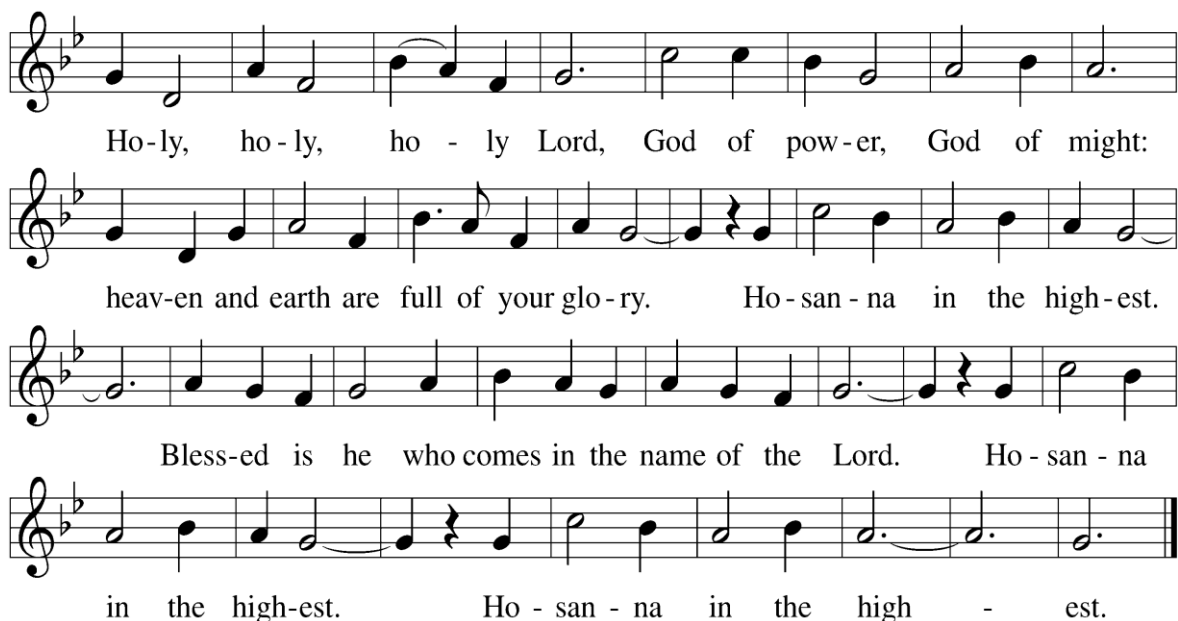
Let us pray together. **Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

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

We celebrate the Holy Spirit, who hovered over creation and brought order out of formlessness. We celebrate the Divine Spirit, who filled Jesus with power and wisdom and, through him, made divine life available to all. We celebrate the Spirit, who has been poured out on all people, and leads us into the Kingdom of God. And so, as we gather at this table, we recognize the Spirit's Presence among us, and we open our hearts to the Spirit's influence. Together, we offer our praise and join in the hymn of all creation:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

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.

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.

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.

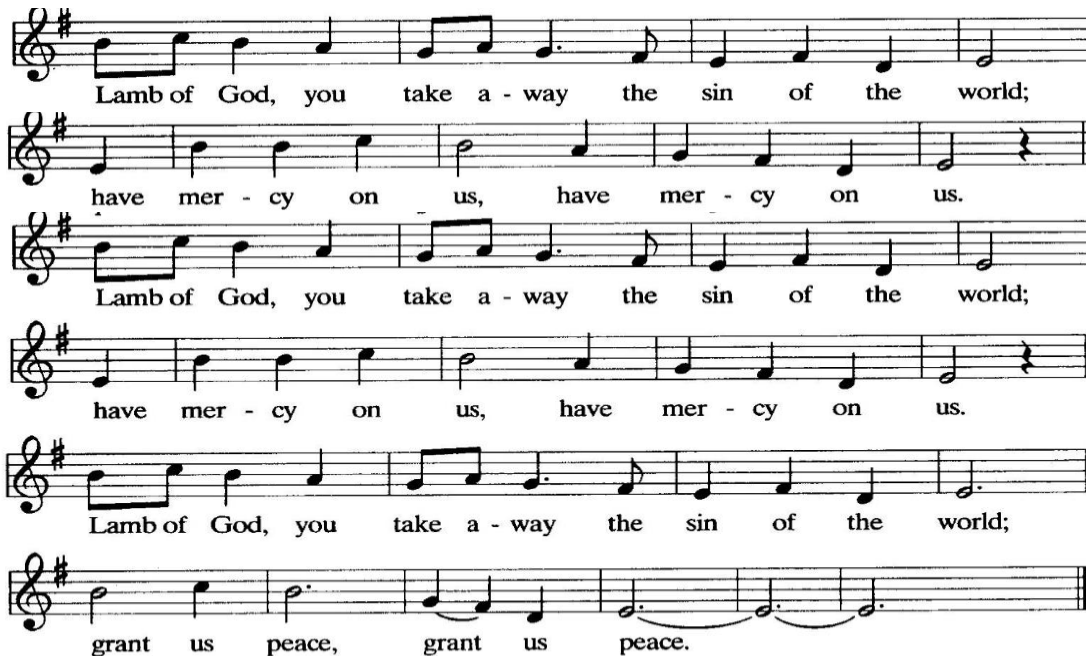
Our Father, who art in heaven, Amen

Please be seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

LAMB OF GOD ~



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION HYMN ~ ELW 491 Come Let Us Eat

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 together: **Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING ~ The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ~ *All Creatures of Our God and King* v.1,3,5,7



1. All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voic - es,
2. Great rush - ing winds who are so strong, You clouds a - bove that
3. Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, Make mu - sic for your
4. Dear moth - er earth, who day by day Un - folds your bless - ings
5. All you with mer - cy in your heart, For - giv - ing oth - ers,
6. And e - ven you, most gen - tle death, Wait - ing to hush our
7. Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, And wor - ship him in

1. let us sing: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing sun with
2. sail a - long, O _ praise him! Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing morn, with
3. Lord to hear, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Fire so in - tense and
4. on our way, O _ praise him! Al - le - lu - ia! All flow'rs and fruits that
5. take your part, O _ sing now! Al - le - lu - ia! All you that pain and
6. fi - nal breath, O _ praise him! Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back home the
7. hum - ble - ness, O _ praise him! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the Fa - ther,

1. gold - en beams, Soft sil - ver moon that gent - ly gleams, O praise him!
2. praise re - joice, Stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice, O praise him!
3. fierce - ly bright, Who gives to us both warmth and light, O praise him!
4. in you grow, Let them his glo - ry al - so show: O praise him!
5. sor - row bear, Praise God, and cast on him your care: O praise him!
6. child of God, For Christ our Lord that way has trod: O praise him!
7. praise the Son, And praise the Spir - it, Three in One: O praise him!

1-7. O praise him! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

DISMISSAL ~ Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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PARISH NOTES ~October 11, 2026

Pastor Karen Parsh ~ 814-881-3266

Office: 814.868.8685 ~ ahadministrator@hotmail.com

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

Please keep in your prayers: John Holmberg, Vicki Farnsworth, Marygrace Cirillo, Jaxon Derry, Mary Alice Ross, Megan Ross, Donna Graham, Larry Kozlowski, Jeff Moffett, Shirley Englert, Brian & Penny Gresh, Candy & Arch Watkins, Sam Elder, Priscila Mirone, Don Morey, Joan Doehrel, Pat Kerr, Connie Kerr-Vogt, Cheryl Hicks, Christine Petrone, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Cindy & Rich Filson, Dick & Diana Stoker, Harry & Susan Speakman, Kathy Sinnott, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Donna Holder and Little Library visitors.

Sunday, October 11: Worship-9:30a, Choir-9a & 10:45a, Bible Study-11a

Monday, October 12: Ministry Team 10:30a. Open to any member.

Wednesday, October 14: Men's Night, 6:30p @ Ricardos. Sign-up in narthex.

Thursday, October 15: Care & Share @ 1p with Damian. **New topic** for learning and discussion..."What Lutherans: Do, Say, Believe". **ALL are WELCOME.**

Thursday, October 15: Ladies Night, 5:30, @ Ricardos. Sign-up in narthex.

Saturday, October 17: A free concert, **Sing Democracy 250**, with Erie's Chamber orchestra and other local musical organizations, to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. **Luther Memorial, 7:00p.**

Sunday, October 18: Worship-9:30a, Choir-9a & 10:45a, Bible Study-11a

Monday, October 19: Ministry Team 10:30a. Open to any member.

Prayer Shawls, 12n. Ladies Gather to pray, knit, converse. **All are Welcome**

Sunday, November 1: All Saint's Sunday. If you wish to have a loved one remembered during worship, the request form in on page 14.

Bob Hicks is "Going to Jail, November 15. Please help pay his "bail" that will support the Kairos Prison Ministry he has embraced for many years. **Donation box** is located at the **sanctuary entrance**.

Little Free Library: There are really no words to express the overwhelming gratitude for all the financial gifts given to the Library this past month. Please read the October newsletter for details regarding how your donations were used and how they are already impacting our neighborhood! Our Little Library is a busy place!

Office Hours: Mon & Tues, 9:30a-3:30p. Wed. 9:30-12:30p

For Pastoral emergencies, please contact Pastor Karen @ 814-881-3266

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up and request forms are on the table in narthex.

Worship Leaders ~ October 11, 2026

Videographer	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Beverly Will
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Bob Hicks
Lector/Prayers	Sally Zill
Communion Cups	Diana Stoker
Communion Tray	Barb Ruhlman
Presenter	Linda Allen
Presenter	Penny Gresh
Usher	Andy Saska
Usher	Volunteer
Counters	Rich & Bill

2026 Abiding Hope
All Saints' Sunday~
November 1st @ 9:30

**Remembering those who have passed on
before us in faith is very important.**

As part of our worship services on Sunday, November 1st, All Saints Sunday, you will have the opportunity to say special prayers and light a candle of remembrances for loved ones who have passed. In addition, there will be a memorial insert in the bulletin with the names of loved ones you wish to be remembered by our Abiding Hope family.

*If your loved one passed after November 2, 2025,
please add an asterisk after the name.*

Submitted by _____

PRINT CLEARLY, place the form in the offering plate by
Sunday, Oct 25 or to the office by Monday the 26th.