

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost ~ August 30, 2026

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

Let us quietly prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

(please turn off your cell phone)

This morning, we welcome Rick Penn as our Lay Minister.

Thank you to Howard Lyon for providing special music this morning!

Howard will be playing selections from Gamba Sonata No. 2 for Viola and Piano by J.S. Bach.

PRELUDE

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.**

GATHERING HYMN ~ Here I Am to Worship pg.2

Here I Am to Worship

1. Light of the world, You stepped down in - to dark - ness,
 2. King of all days, oh so high - ly ex - alt - ed,
 o - pened my eyes, let me see. Beau - ty that made this
 glo - rious in heav - en a - bove. Hum - bly You came to the
 heart a - dore You, hope of a life spent with You.
 earth You cre - a - ted, all for love's sake be - came poor.

CHORUS

So, here I am to wor-ship, here I am to bow down, here I am to
 say that You're my God. And You're al-to-geth-er love-ly. al-to-geth-er
 1 2
 wor-thy, al-to-geth-er won-der-ful to me. And I'll nev
 - er know how much it cost to see my sin up-on
 Coda
 1 2
 that cross. And I'll nev that cross. So, here I am to

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.**

KYRIE

Refrain

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son, ev - 'ry day.

1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the u - ni - ty of all: for this ho - ly house, for all who wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain

PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray together.

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, or I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts.¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

cont'd

¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 26:1-8 Response Spoken

¹Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

²**Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³For your steadfast love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴**I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.**

⁵I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶**I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸**LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides.**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

¹¹Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord."

cont'd

²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

Please Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S 188

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 20.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

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

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Rick Penn, Lay Minister

Please stand

HYMN of the DAY ~ ELW 808 *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song v.1,3*

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit. We pray especially for: Joan, Pat K., Barry & Kim, the Linder Family, Sharron, Connie, Kim, Pastor Karen, Cheryl, Trudy, Gilda & Anthony, Ed & Jeanne, Cindy & Rich, Christine P., Harry & Susan, Dick & Diana, Kathi, Maury & Linda, Don & Donna, Damian & Marcia, the Little Library visitors, and for all in our hearts. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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

Please stand

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ Step By Step

O God, You are my God, and I will ev - er praise _
You. O God, You are my God, and I will ev - er praise _
You. I will seek You in the morn - ing, and I will learn to walk in Your _
ways; And step by step You'll lead _
_ me, and I will fol - low You all of my days.

Lay Distributor

PRAYERS of DISTRIBUTION

Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.

When our congregation gathers for the celebration of Holy Communion, we hear again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With thanksgiving we remember the words that have been spoken:

"In the night in which he was betrayed, he 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

We have been given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ. As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, Amen.

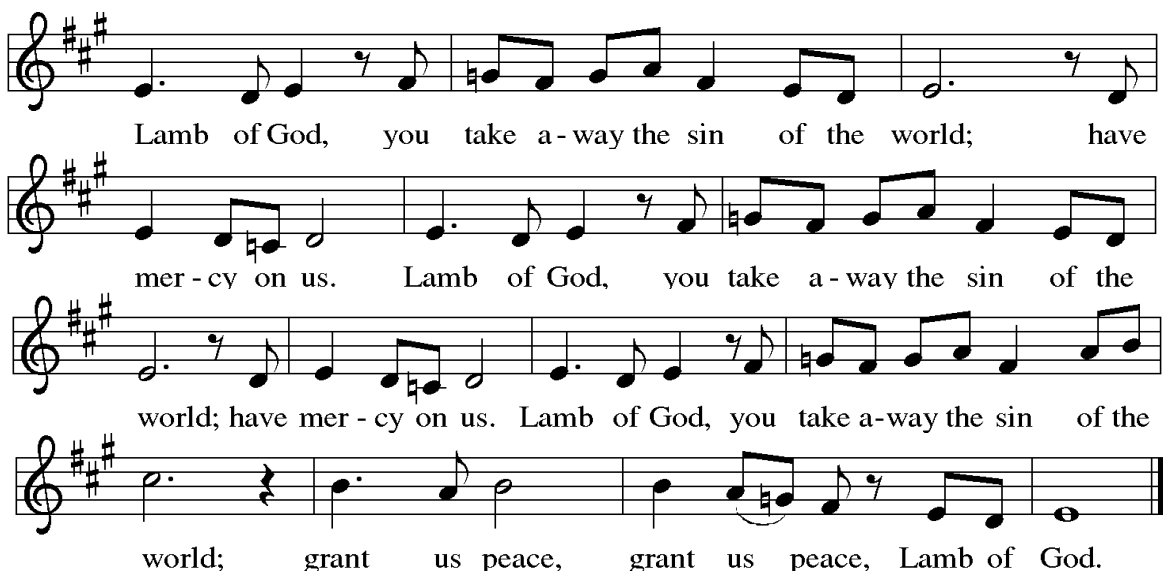
Please be seated

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

DISTRIBUTION of ELEMENTS ~ Lay Distributors

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, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

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

COMMUNION ~ Instrumental Meditation

Please stand

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together: **Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

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

BLESSING

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer ✚ one God, bless, heal and hold you today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ~ ELW 710 *Let Streams of Living Justice*

DISMISSAL

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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Parish Notes ~ August 30, 2026

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Pastor Karen Parsh – 814-881-3266, Pastorparsh@gmail.com

Please keep in your prayers: Joan Doehrel, Pat Kerr, Dave Linder Family, Barry & Kim Ayers, Sharron Sontheimer, Connie Kerr-Vogt, Kim Sandhold, Pastor Karen Parsh, Cheryl Hicks, Trudy Mueller, Christine Petrone, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Gilda & Anthony, Cindy & Rich Filson, Dick & Diana Stoker, Harry & Susan Speakman, Kathy Sinnott, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Donna Holder and Little Library visitors.

Today is World Hunger 5th Sunday: Designated by AHLC council as a day for members to contribute financial support to help meet the needs of a hungry world. **Envelopes are available in the pews for cash or check donations.** If using a check, make it payable to Abiding Hope, indicating ELCA World Hunger in the memo line, and place your gift in the offering plate. **Thank you!**

Thursday, September 3: Care & Share 1:00p with Damian Santabene

Sunday, September 6: Worship 9:30a – Lay Minister – Barb Dennison



Monday, September 7: Labor Day, Office Closed

Sunday, September 13: Worship 9:30a – Pastor Sara Cogsil

TOWN HALL Meeting-following worship. Choir Rehearsal: 9a & 1045a

Prayer Shawls: For **September**, ladies will meet the **2nd/4th Monday @ 12noon**

Little Jesus Project: An easy way to be an Ambassador for Christ is to leave a Little Jesus in a public place to be found by someone passing by! They are located in a basket under the monitor in the Narthex—help yourself!

KAFF needs a guy for cutting boxes and any other odd jobs. It's for approximately 3hrs. (+/-) twice a month on Thursday morning. For additional information, contact **Rich Filson 814.460.8229**. We guarantee that you'll have a good time while serving our neighbors.

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9:30a-3:30p. Wednesday 9:30-12:30p.

Immediate pastoral needs, please **contact Rick Penn @ 814.737.9974**. For **additions or revisions** to the weekly **prayer list**, please **call** or **email** the office.

Worship Leaders ~ August 30, 2026

Videographer	Analee Cree	Communion Cups	Nancy Cuning
Greeter/Coffee	Nancy Cuning	Communion Tray	Linda Allen
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Analee Cree	Usher	Rich Filson
Lector/Prayers	Judi Pacileo	Usher	Jay Zeimet
Lay Distributor	John Holmberg	Counters	Lois & Barb