

Second Sunday in Lent

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

March 13, 2022

Interim Pastor: Rev. Karen Parsh - 814.881.3266 – pastorparsh@gmail.com

2402 W. Grandview Blvd. Erie PA 16506 – ahadministrator@hotmail.com

814.868.8685 - www.abidinghopeerie.org – FB: abidinghopelutheranchurch



Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord.

Holy Communion: the congregation will celebrate holy communion as we did pre-pandemic. We will once again, kneel (or stand) at the altar rail and receive the host from Pastor Karen, then, choosing grape juice or an empty cup, receive the wine poured from the chalice from the communion assistant. The common cup will not be offered. For those who wish to use pre-packaged communion, sets are available as you enter the sanctuary.

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

✠ In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.
Amen.

Silence for reflection

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

Holy One,

we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In ✠ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: ~ BLESSED BE YOUR NAME ~ SEE ATTACHED

Rejoice in this good news:

In † Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven. You are descendants of the Most High, adopted into the household of Christ, and inheritors of eternal life. Live as freed and forgiven children of God. **Amen.**

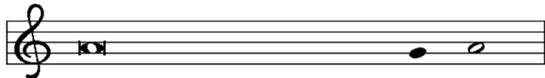
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



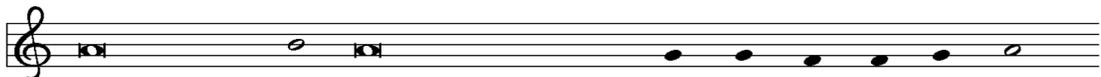
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



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



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated

Word

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

A reading from Genesis.

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 27

Sung responsively.



¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴One thing I ask of the LORD; one ¹ thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God ¹ in the temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble God will ¹ give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- ¹ on a rock.

⁶Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies ¹ who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music ¹ to the LORD.

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, ¹ when I call;
have mercy on me and ¹ answer me.

⁸My heart speaks your message— ¹ “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, ¹ I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- ¹ vant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of ¹ my salvation.

¹⁰Though my father and my moth- ¹ er forsake me,
the LORD will ¹ take me in.

¹¹Teach me your ¹ way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of ¹ my oppressors.

¹²Subject me not to the will ¹ of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses ¹ breathing violence.

¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness ¹ of the LORD
in the land ¹ of the living!

¹⁴Wait for the LORD ¹ and be strong.
Take heart and wait ¹ for the LORD!

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17--4:1

A reading from Philippians.

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - sing twice

The assembly stands.

Return to God

Refrain

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and
mer-cy; come seek the ten - der faith-fill-ness of God.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY ~ ELW 613 ~ THY HOLY WINGS

The assembly stands.

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.

THE PRAYERS

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.* You gather the church into a community of mercy and grace. Unify Christians around the globe in efforts to proclaim good news even in the face of opposition and to protect those whose lives are imperiled by the gospel. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You create the entire universe and call it good. Hinder those who would cause further destruction to our planet's fragile ecosystems, and augment the calls of those who advocate for thoughtful stewardship of the earth's resources. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You raise up leaders committed to love and justice. Nurture in those who govern patience to receive criticism, openness to new ideas, and courage to change course when needed for the sake of the common good. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You hear us when we cry to you. Attend to those expecting a child, and console those who have experienced miscarriage. Comfort veterans enduring post-traumatic stress. Shield those endangered by domestic violence. Uphold those who are ill or grieving especially Lois and her sister Helen, Don, Skip, Dave, Bonnie, Denise, Milo, Karen, Ruth, Don, Irene, Judi, Bishop Lozano, Carrie, Evelyn, Jack, Marjorie, Judy and Joyce. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You kindle faith that moves us into action. Guide children and adults preparing for baptism or confirmation. Empower Sunday school teachers, confirmation leaders, and parents who share their faith with younger generations. Give us all a renewed sense of vocation. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You welcome us into your heavenly realm. We give thanks for those whose labors on earth are ended and who now rest with you. On the final day, gather all of us, with them, in your loving arms. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly greets each other from their pew space.

The assembly is seated while the Pastor prepares communion.

The presentors approach the altar with flagon of wine and host.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The assembly stands

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our 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

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 call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.
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 life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.
Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church, both now and forever.
Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet for all is now ready.

COMMUNION—*At Abiding Hope all believers are welcome to share Holy Communion at the table of the Lord. After receiving the bread, you may receive wine from the chalice poured into individual glasses or you may choose pre-poured grape juice as an alternative. Gluten free wafers are also available upon request.*

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.

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION HYMN ~ ELW 468 ~ AROUND YOU, O LORD JESUS

OH, HOW HE LOVES YOU AND ME

VERSE

1. Oh, how He loves you and me, _____ Oh, how He loves you and
 2. Je - sus to Cal - v'ry did go, _____ His love for sin - ners to
 7
 me. _____ He gave His life, what _____ more could He give?
 show. _____ What He did there brought - hope from de - spair.
 Oh, how He loves you, Oh, how He loves me;
 Oh, how He loves you and me. _____

May the body and blood of our † Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

SENDING SONG ~ 8:30 ~ ELW 831 ~ THE GOD OF ABRAHAM

10:30 ~ BETTER IS ONE DAY ~ CCLI 1097451 SEE ATTACHED

POSTLUDE



GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Hard Way

In Luke's gospel, Jesus sets a course toward Jerusalem, even though he knows what he will face there. His gospel of forgiveness and inclusion will prove intolerable to the powers of the empire, eventually resulting in his execution. Still, when he is warned, he responds, "I must be on my way" (Luke 13:33), and laments for the city that will kill him. Jesus is not naive about violence and conflict in the world. He heads straight for it anyway, knowing what he is called to do.

We are often faced with choices in which doing the right thing means some inconvenience or hardship. Spiritual disciplines during Lent offer practice for rising to these challenges, such as giving up single-use plastics in order to limit our impact on the planet. On a deeper level, moving toward racial justice as a country asks people to learn more about the continuing impact of hundreds of years of slavery and segregation, and to make choices and implement policies that address this continuing legacy. Where do we get the resolve to do the right thing—even when it means taking the hard way?

Perhaps doing the right thing even when it's hard begins as it did for Jesus in his prayer of lament for Jerusalem: with honesty and an openly broken heart. As a cry of sadness or anger, lament roots us in the communal bonds of shared grief and turns us toward the deeper power and justice of God. Lament is an ancient and enduring form of prayer, well represented in the prayer book of the Hebrew Bible, the Psalms. It is a raw and honest expression of grief and rage without excuses, without explanations. God hears, God sees. God is with us in the sorrow, and in the resolve to be more compassionate and just.



PARISH NOTES

March 13, 2022

Please pray for: Skip and Don Kleckner, Lois Kuhns and her sister Helen, Bonnie Gebhardt, Dave Cunning, Judy Nordin, Denise Miller, Karen Shick, Milo Mariotti, Ruth Hinkson, Don Fuller, Irene Owens, Judi Pacileo, Bishop Lozano, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, and Joyce Hersperger. Blessings to June Beard and Don Moyer as they prepare for their upcoming wedding.

Lenten Worship: New Hope Presbyterian Church joins us for all Lenten Worship, AND Soup Suppers. Mid week Lenten worship / Study include worship and study, *Journey with Our Savior*, and will explore spiritual relevance of key geographical points along the path of Christ's passion. Join us, each Wednesday through April 6th for Lenten Soup & Bread suppers at 5:30 followed by Worship / Study at 6:00 and choir at 7:00 pm. Sign up to bring soup or bread on sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Communion: The congregation will celebrate communion as we did pre-pandemic. We will once again, kneel (or stand) at the altar rail and receive the host from Pastor Karen, then, choosing grape juice or an empty cup, we will receive the wine poured from the chalice from the communion assistant. The common cup will not be offered. For those who wish to use pre-packaged communion, sets are available as you enter the sanctuary.

Easter Flock Planning Meeting: Plans are in process for an Easter event to be held Saturday, April 9th at the church. New Hope Presbyterian and St Paul's Lutheran are working with Abiding Hope to make this event a success. This community event will take many folks to plan, promote and execute. We need your time and talents to make this a success. If time and talent are in short supply, your monetary gift to help defray the costs are welcome. Next meeting is Tuesday the 15th at 11:30 AM.

In-Person Worship: Sunday service is offered @ **8:30a and 10:30a**. The 10:30a service will live-stream on Facebook and then posted to the AHLC web page.

Bible Study: Continues on **Sundays at 9:30a** between services.

Adult Choir: Is at **7 PM** following the Lenten service.

Seniors: Senior Fellowship will be held on Wed, March 16th at 12 noon. Guest speaker will be **Jennifer Amann** who is a **fraud investigator** for CNB Bank. She will speak to us on senior fraud.

ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companion churches in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as the Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Your gifts will support Ukrainians and others. Gifts to "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the crisis in Ukraine and neighboring countries. There are several ways to donate:

--Drop your donation in the church offering basket marked for "EECR" (for Eastern Europe Crisis Response). Checks dropped off at the church need to be made out to Abiding Hope with EECR written on the memo line.

--Mail your own check or money order to:

Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Write "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" on your check memo line.

--Give by phone at **800-638-3522** (Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. CT)

--Go online: <https://community.elca.org/eastern-europe-crisis-response>

Office Hours: While our office administrator, Denise Miller, is on medical leave, normal office hours will not be honored. If you leave a message your call will be returned or, for immediate assistance, call Pastor Karen at 814-881-3266. Pastor Karen is in the office every Tuesday AM.

Lenten 7 PM Sunday Zoom study group with Pastor Karen and Lon Jenkins. **TONIGHT at 7 PM** and running through Lent we are studying the book *The Shack* by William Paul Young. There is still time to join this group. Sign up by contacting Lon Jenkins at jenkinslon@aol.com and he will send you your Zoom instructions.

Niagara Village Bible Study / Sing-A-Long / Worship for March is this Thursday at 10 AM at the Village.

Ladies sign up before Friday the 18th to be a part of **Ladies Night Out** on Thursday the 24th at 5:30 at **Ricardo's Restaurant** on the east side. Call Jackie Holmberg to RSVP at 814-490-4470. If you need a ride or can be a driver, please let Jacque know and be at the church at 5:00.

Shoes and Clothes: Special thank you to those to donated clothing and, yes a crib, delivered to **Bethany Outreach this week.** We continue collecting gently used shoes and are looking to add gently used clothing to that collection. Donations are taken to Bethany Outreach. Items (any season) are needed for **men, women and children.** Bethany Outreach is the light in the darkness of many lives who are in need. They can receive these items without charge. Donations can be left in the mail room. Any questions, please contact Analee Cree - 814-397-6168.

Bishop Lozano : Prayers are powerful and are requested to be continued along with cards and notes, which can be the medicine one needs on days when it is hardest to keep strong. They'll be forwarded several times. A box is the narthex.

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for worship, a sign-up form is on the table in the narthex. The costs of the flowers remain the same as before, **\$20.00 per arrangement.** Please return your request and payment one week ahead of your chosen Sunday. Please return your request and payment one week ahead of your chosen Sunday.

Sign Up sheet is in the narthex for Bible purchases for summer Bible reading initiative. Costs: The Message Bible - \$21, Lutheran Study Bible / hardcover - \$35, paperback -\$25

Part-time position: St Peter's Lutheran Church is looking for a part-time office secretary/administrator. The position offers 15-20 hours/week of secretarial & financial entry duties. For more information, please contact:

Carol Wakley

St. Peter's Lutheran Church / Council President

1500 Freeport Rd, North East

Church—814-725-1840 (please leave a message)

Carol's cell: 814-450-8743

CURRENT FUND REPORT

February Income:	\$ 7,963.00	Year to Date Income:	\$ 16,237.00
February Expenses:	\$10,851.79	Year to Date Expenses:	\$ 20,425.33
February Difference:	\$ -3,158.79	Year to date Difference:	\$ -4,152.33
Year to Date Budget:		\$ 22,586	

Today's altar flowers were given by John and Jacque Holmberg

In Honor of her parents, Skip & Don Kleckner's, 92nd birthdays this week.

Happy Birthday, Skip & Don!

Candles for today's worship service were given by Carol Wunch

In Memory of Gordon and Mark Wunch