

Christ the King ~ November 23, 2025

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W Grandview Blvd, Erie Pa 16506

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

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

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 ~ He is Exalted pg 4

VERSE



He is ex - alt - ed, the King is ex - alt - ed on high, I will praise Him.

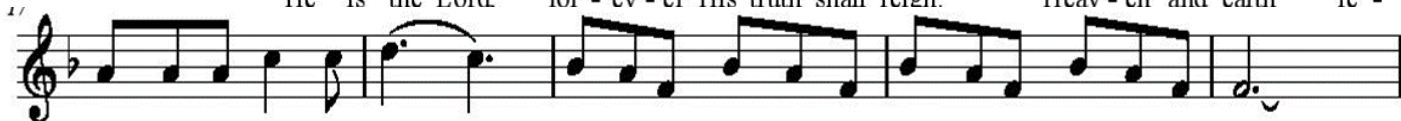


He is ex - alt - ed, for - ev - er ex - alt - ed, and I will praise His name!

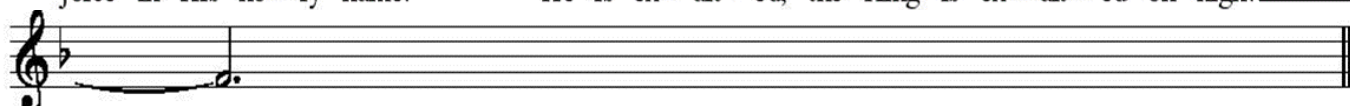
CHORUS



He is the Lord. for - ev - er His truth shall reign. Heav - en and earth re -



joice in His ho - ly name. He is ex - alt - ed, the King is ex - alt - ed on high!



GREETING

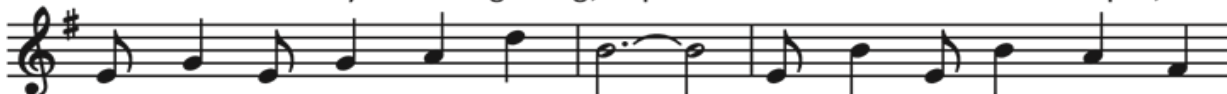
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN of PRAISE ~ Sing of the Lord's Goodness vs. 1 & 2

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,
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,
4. praise God with the lute and harp; praise him with the cym - bals,

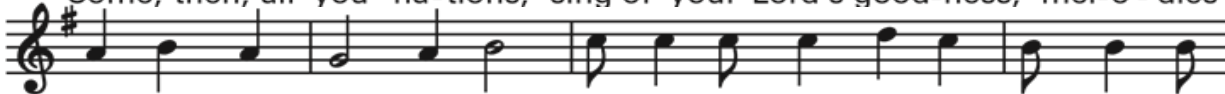


1. his love is for - ev - er, faith - ful to the end of days.
2. one bread he has bro - ken, new life he now gives to all.
4. praise him with your danc - ing, praise God till the end of days.

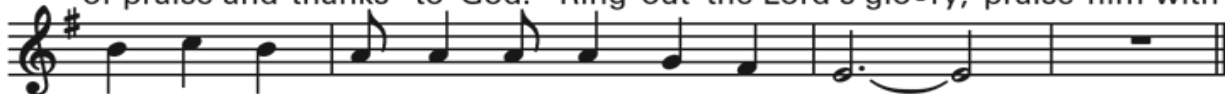
Refrain



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.

PRAYER of the DAY

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

A brief silence is kept before the prayer. **O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through 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: Jeremiah 23:1-6

¹Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. ⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

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



PSALM: 46 Sung Responsively



Tone 1

¹ God is our ref- | uge and strength, a very present | help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**

³ though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the |
shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that | I am God; I will be exalted
among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”**

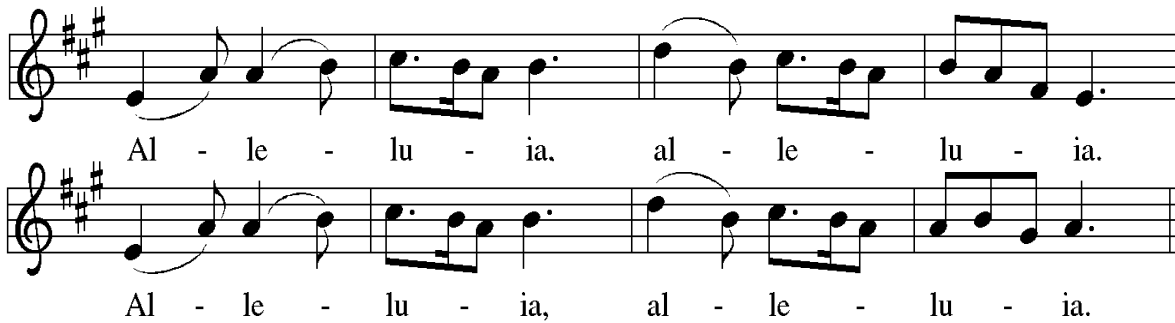
¹¹ The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

SECOND READING: Colossians 1:11-20

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ~ Celtic Alleluia



GOSPEL: Luke 23:33-43

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 23. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." ³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation. ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴² Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." ⁴³ He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

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

Please be seated

SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

HYMN of the DAY ~ *You, Lord, are Both Lamb and Shepherd* pg.6



You are Both Lamb and Shepherd

1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.
2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,
3 You, who walk each day be - side us,
4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!

You, Lord, are both prince and slave.
stripped of might up - on the cross,
sit in pow - er at God's side.
Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!

You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;

The first staff of music is written on a five-line treble clef. It begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4 (half), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), and F4 (half). A slur is placed under the final two notes, G4 and F4.

of	the	way	you	took		and	gave.
beg -	gared	by	a	sol	-	dier's	toss,
have	a	love	that	reach	-	es	wide.
wor -	thy	still	your	peace		and	strife.

You, the	ev	-	er	-	last	-	ing	in	-	stant;
you, the	ev	-	er	-	last	-	ing	in	-	stant;
You, the	ev	-	er	-	last	-	ing	in	-	stant;
You, the	ev	-	er	-	last	-	ing	in	-	stant;

you,	whom	we	both	scorn		and	crave.
you,	who	are	both	gift		and	cost.
you,	who	are	our	pil	-	grim	guide.
you,	who	are	our	death		and	life.

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

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick. We pray especially for: Tom, Jackie S, Harry, Patrick, Carl, Ed W., Dick, Pat, Candy & Arch, Leslie & Michele & Sue, Gail, Joy, Shirley, Karen, Dan & Peggy, Bob, Kathi, Maury & Linda, Damian & Marcia, Don & Donna, and requests from the Little Library. Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for all who have died in faith. May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

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

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING ~ Choir: *Coronation* -C Courtney

Please stand

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ ELW 679 *For the Fruit of All Creation*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

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:



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of 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 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, hallowed be thy name, 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 HYMNS ~ ELW 838 *Beautiful Savior*

Jesus, Name Above All Names

1. Je sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful Sav - ior,
2. Je sus, lov - ing Shep - herd, Vine of the branch - es,
3. Praise him, Lord a - bove all lords, King a - bove all kings,
glo - ri - ous Lord. Em - man - u - el, God is with us,
Son of God. Prince of Peace, Won - der - ful Coun - se - lor,
God's on - ly Son. The Prince of Peace, who by his Spir - it
bless - ed Re - deem - er, Liv - ing Word.
Lord of the u - ni - verse, Light of the world.
comes to live in us, Mas - ter and Friend.

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: **Thank you, Divine Spirit, for this holy meal and for coming to us as we have shared it. May the love we find at this table be reflected in our lives; May the power we receive at this table make us peacemakers and healers; And may the Spirit who fills us again at this table lead us to be those who proclaim God's Reign in every word we speak and in everything we do. Amen.**

BLESSING

May Almighty God, the Father who created the world, the Son who lived to teach us how to live together, and died that we might live together with him forever, and the Spirit who inspires and nurtures us in faith, bless you and keep you this day and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ~ ELW 855 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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PARISH NOTES ~ November 23, 2025

Rev. Karen Parsh ~ 814-881-3266

814-868-8685 ~ ahadministrator@hotmail.com

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

**This Sunday the altar arrangement, given to the Glory of God,
is in Celebration of Thanksgiving
and the Many Blessings God Gives Us.
from Irene Owens.**

Please keep in your prayers: Tom Cirillo, Jackie Seib, Harry Speakman, Patrick Short, Carl Larese, Ed Whitbred, Dick Stoker, Pat Kerr, Gail Boyce, Candy & Arch Watkins, Leslie Gallagher-Kelly & Michele Rion & Sue, Karen Shick, Shirley Englert, Ed Tropper & Jeanne, Dan & Peggy Kaeberlein, Bob McDaniel, Kathy Sinnott, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Donna Holder and requests from the Little Library.

Sunday, November 23: Choir ~ 9a & 10:45a .. Bible Study 10:45a

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

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**

Thursday, November 27
Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 30: World Hunger Sunday: Each 5th Sunday is a time 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 for your generosity.**

Thursday Afternoon's @ 1:00p: EXCEPT 11/27. Care & Share with Damian Santabene & Pastor Karen. Meaningful discussions on a new book...***Anxious for Nothing***. Purchasing the book not necessary.

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

Christmas Poinsettias: Forms in narthex. **Deadline to order, December 2.**

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 **December 8.**

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

KAFP Food Drive: November...creamed corn, dried beans, oatmeal and shaving products. Baskets for items in the Heritage Room.

KAFP ADVENT GIVING 2025: **Begins November 30 to December 21.**
Please see graphic in narthex for information.

Office Hours: Mon, Tues 930a-330p. Wed 930a-1230p.

Flower arrangements for Sunday worship: Weekly sign-up and request forms are on the table in narthex. Arrangements: **\$20.00ea.** Please place the completed form/payment in the offering, or to the office by the Mon. prior your chosen Sun.

WORSHIP LEADERS ~ NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Videographer	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Nancy Cunning
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Bob Hicks
Lector/Prayers	Jeanne Tropper
Communion Cups	Analee Cree
Communion Tray	Lois Kuhns
Presenter	Nancy Cunning
Presenter	Diana Stoker
Usher	Andy Saska
Usher	Rich Filson
Counters	Diana & Analee