First Sunday of Advent ~ November 29, 2026

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

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

(Please slience 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 calls out to the weary, whose word endures forever. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Comforting God,
we are your people,
but we have neglected to call on your name.
We are your people,
but we have not remembered your ways.
We are your people,
but we have forgotten your hold on us.
We are your people,
but now we fade like a leaf,
and our sins, like the wind, take us away.
Restore us as your people.
Cleanse us from our sin,
and clothe us in your righteousness. Amen.

"Comfort, comfort my people!" says your God, who has clothed you with the garments of salvation and wrapped you in the robe of righteousness. God has given you a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. In the name of ☩ Christ, your sins are forgiven: Rejoice in the Lord! Rejoice in the Lord!
Amen.

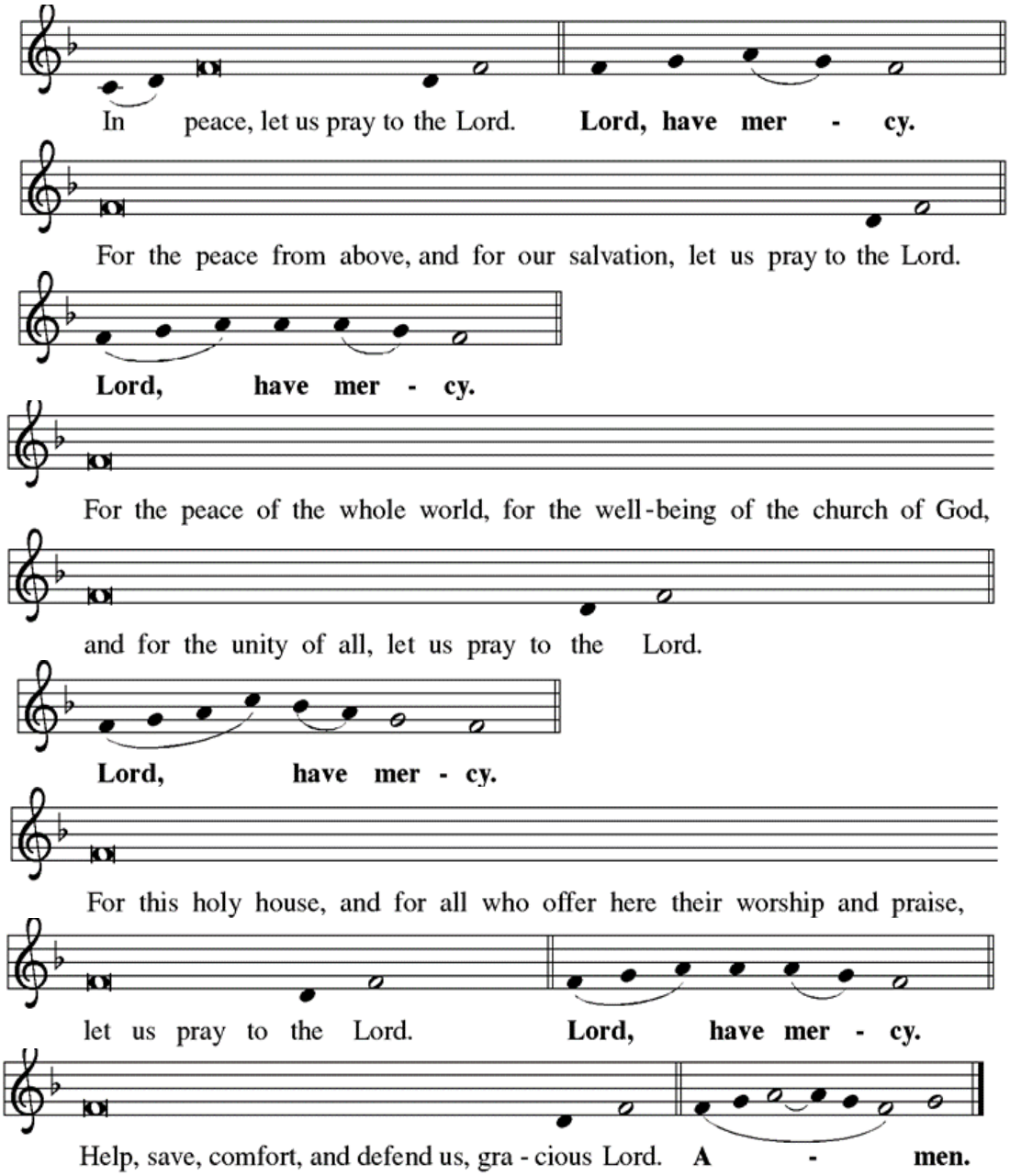
GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 242 *Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn*

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



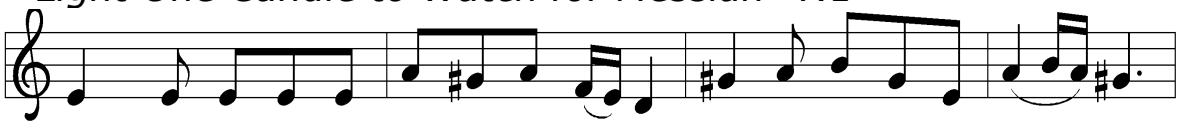
ADVENT READING and CANDLE LIGHTING

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.

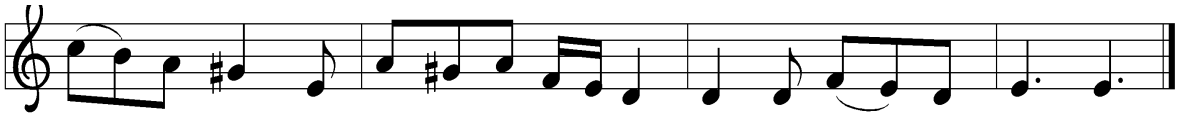
On this day, we remember to hopefully look for the coming of Christ.

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah pg.4

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah v.1



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.

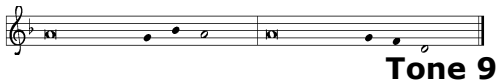
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the
mountains would quake at your presence—2 as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—to make your name known to your
adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!3 When you
did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains
quaked at your presence.4 From ages past no one has heard, no ear has
perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who
wait for him.5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you
in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself
we transgressed.6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our
righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our
iniquities, like the wind, take us away.7 There is no one who calls on your
name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from
us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.8 Yet, O LORD, you are
our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of
your hand. 9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember
iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

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

PSALM: 80:1-7,17-19 Sung Responsively 

Tone 9

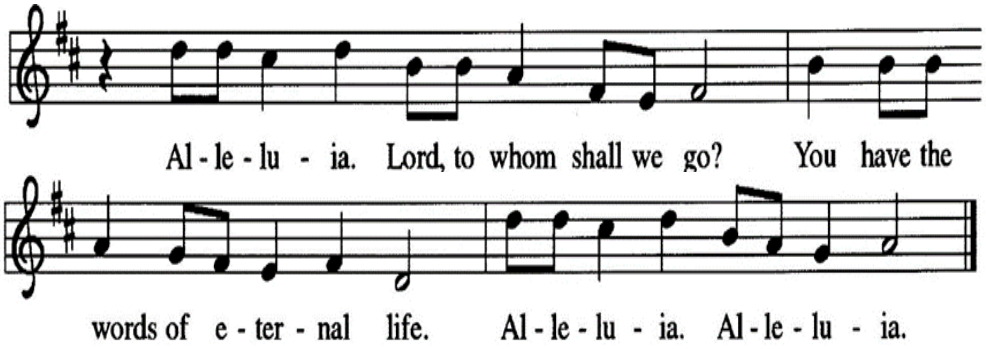
1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph | like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned up- | on the cherubim.
2 **In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, | and Manasseh,**
stir up your strength and | come to help us.
3 Restore | us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
4 **O LORD | God of hosts,**
how long will your anger fume when your | people pray?
5 You have fed them with the | bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of | tears to drink.
6 **You have made us the derision | of our neighbors,**
and our enemies laugh | us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O | God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.
17 **Let your hand be upon the one at | your right hand,**
the one you have made so strong | for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn a- | way from you;
give us life, that we may call up- | on your name.
19 **Restore us, O LORD | God of hosts;**
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— 6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37
The holy gospel according to St. Mark Chapter 13. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be
darkened, and the moon will not give its light,25 and the stars will be falling
from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.26 "Then they
will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory.
27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds,
from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 28 "From the fig tree learn
its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves,
you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking
place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this
generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place.
31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven
nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know
when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he
leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and
commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake,
for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening
or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep
when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep
awake." **The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ**

Please be seated
SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

Please stand
HYMN of the DAY ~ 438 *My Lord, What a Morning*

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 hope and expectation, we bring to God our prayers for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

Strengthen your church in this season of anticipation. Nourish all people who gather around word and water, bread and cup. Reassure any whose faith feels dry that you are always near. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Come and restore the earth. Give rest to weary lands and renewed life to species at risk. Make us wise stewards of the places we call home.

God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Bring peace among all nations and communities. Show us new possibilities in places where peace has been elusive. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Sustain all who are heavy with weariness, grief, illness, or worry.

We pray especially for: Curtis, Karen S., Katrina, Christan, Nancy R., Larry K, Donna, Marygrace, Vicki, Mary Alice, Sharron, Karen S., Brian & Penny, Shirley, Candy & Arch, Sam, Don, Joan, Pat K., Connie, Christine P., Ed & Jeanne, Cindy & Rich, Harry & Susan, Dick & Diana, Kathi, Maury & Linda, Don & Donna, Damian & Marcia, Little Library visitors, and for all in our hearts. Comfort families who are estranged from one another and any who are separated from loved ones. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Inspire liturgists, preachers, musicians, and all who lead our worship and prayer. May we be prepared as we await Christ's coming this Advent season. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

You embrace all the saints from the far reaches of the earth. We remember with care all who have died and now abide in their eternal home.

God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We entrust these and the prayers of our hearts to you, most holy God, in the name of Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

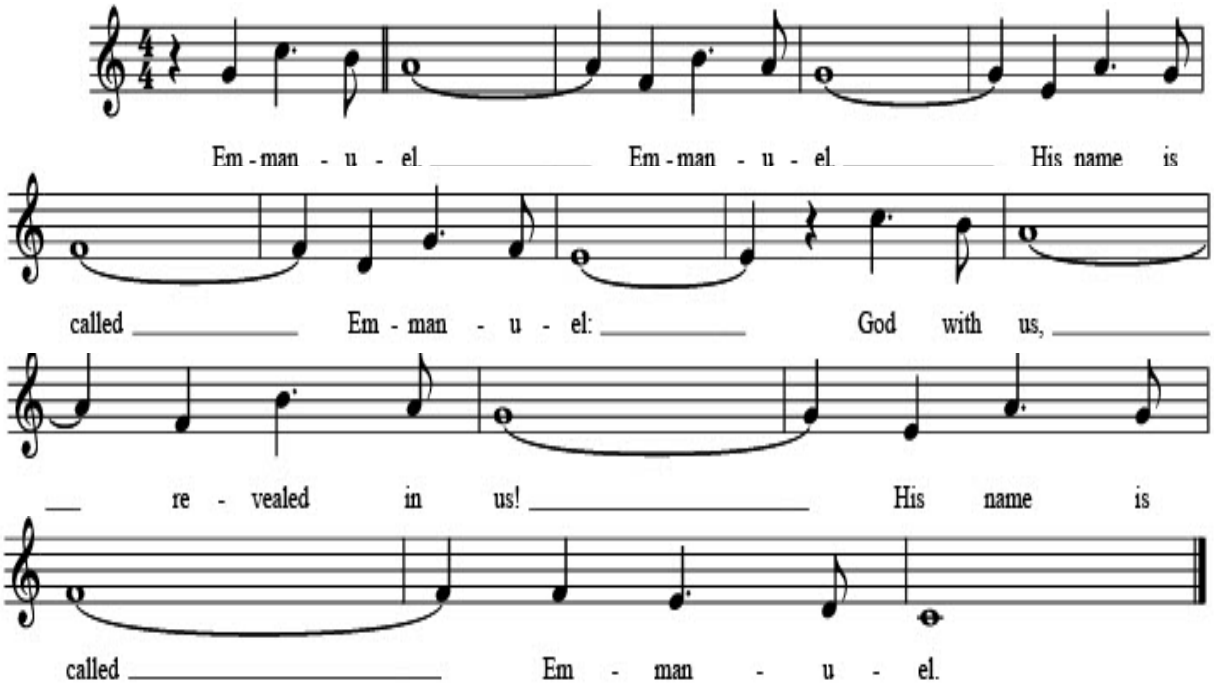
PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you**.
Please be seated

MEAL
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ *Emmanuel*

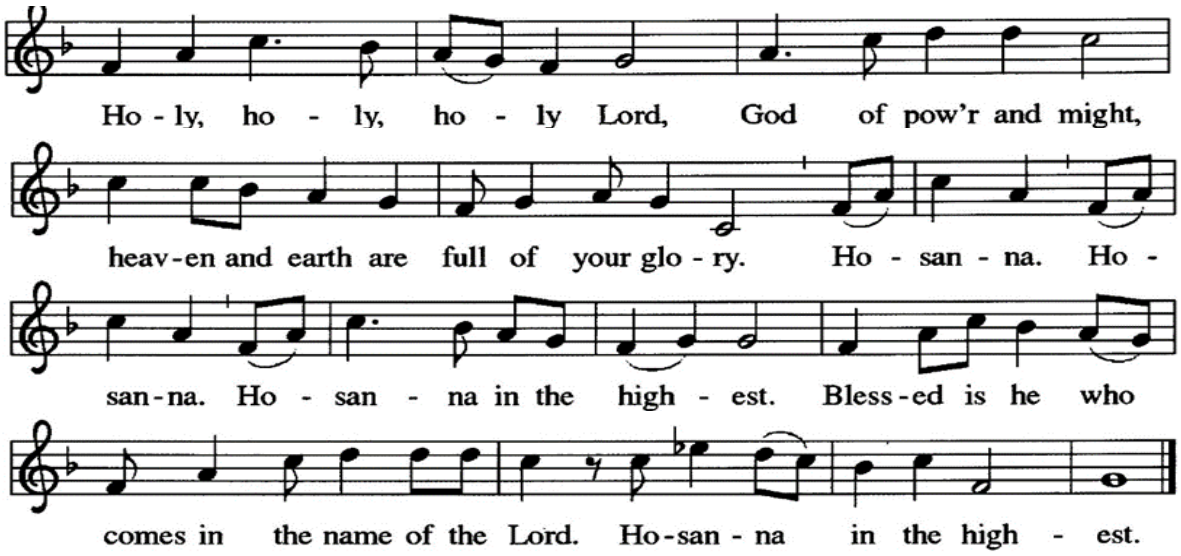


OFFERING PRAYER
Let us pray. **God of hope, you fill the hungry with good things. Give us hopeful hearts and open hands to receive your love and share our abundance, that all may be fed. In the name of the one who sustains all life, Jesus Christ, our love. Amen.**

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:



EUCHARISTIC 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.

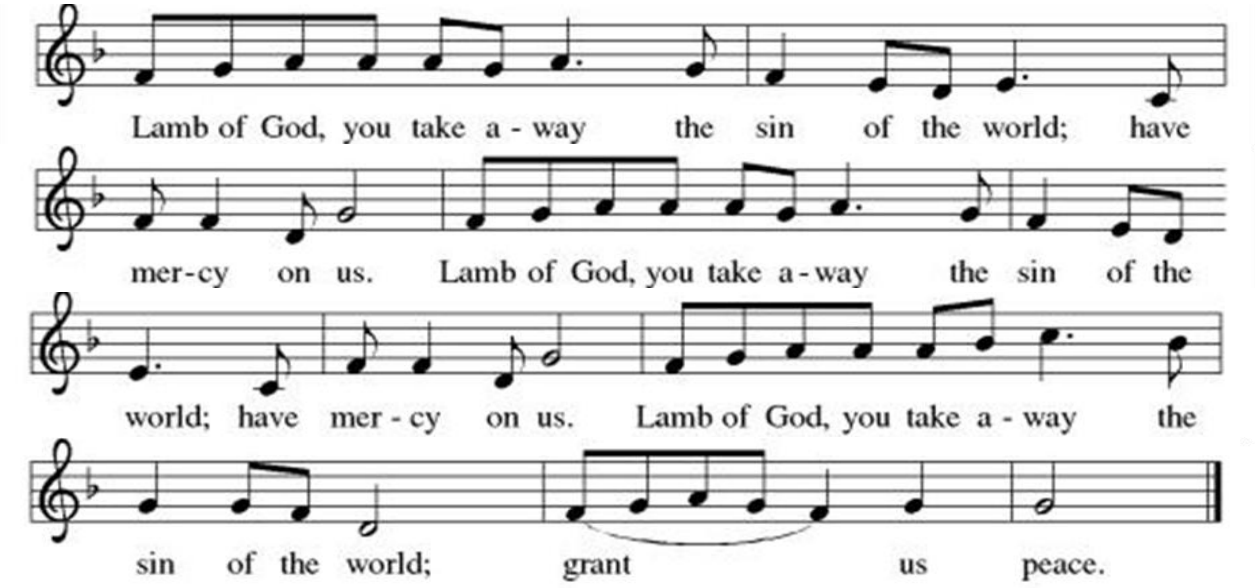
Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

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.

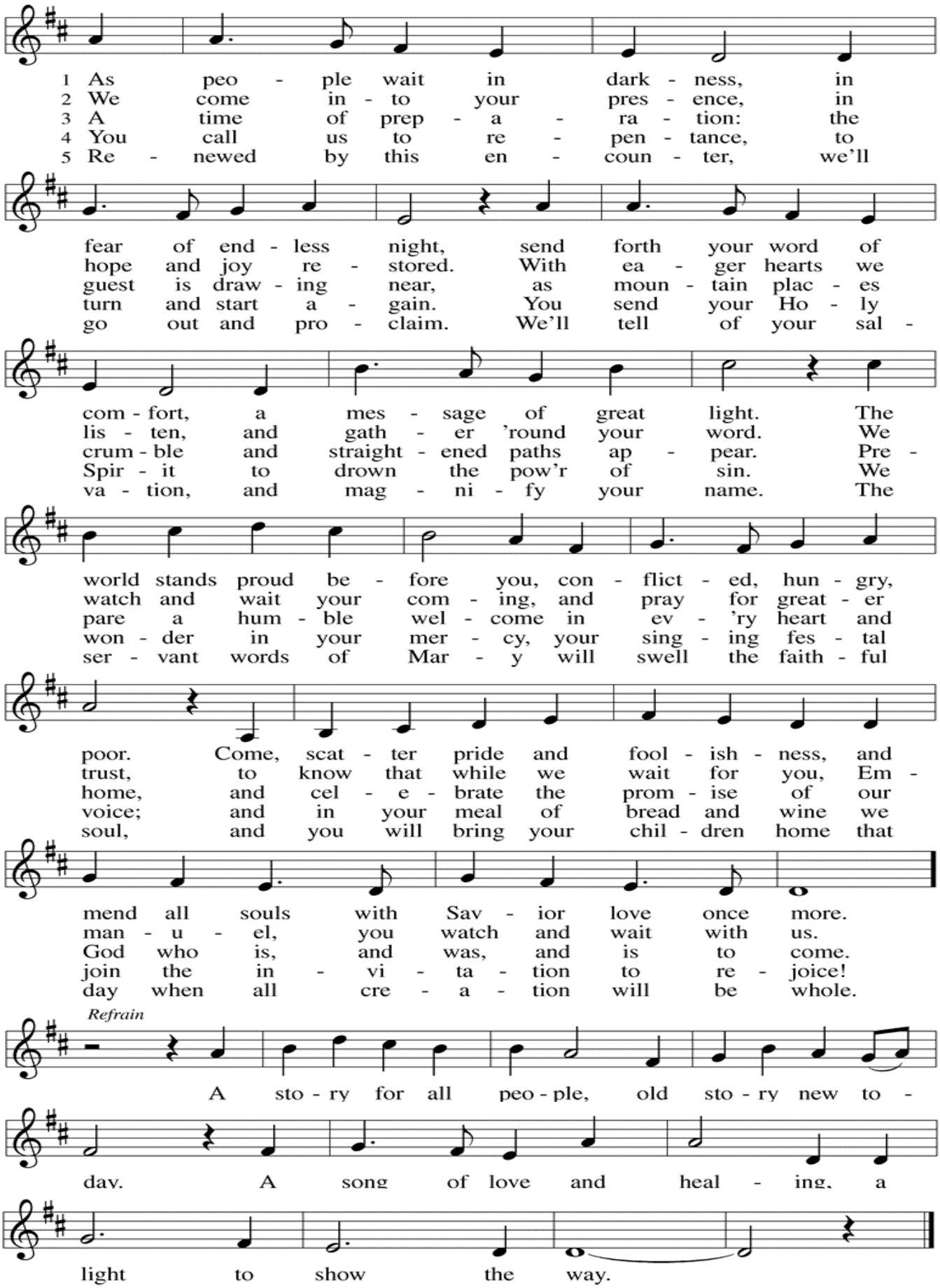
Please be seated
INVITATION TO COMMUNION
God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table.

LAMB of GOD



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

COMMUNION HYMN ~ *A Story for All People* pg.11



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 715 *Christ, Be Our Light* v.1,2,5

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

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PARISH NOTES ~ November 29, 2026

Rev. Karen Parsh ~ 814-881-3266
814-868-8685 ~ ahadministrator@hotmail.com
FB: abidinghopelutheranchurch www.abidinghopeerie.org

The sanctuary flowers, given to the Glory of God, are
In Honor of Nadine & Jerry Carlson
from Cindi Reid

Pease keep members & friends in your prayers: Curtis Oakes, Nancy Riley, Karen Schumacher, Katrina Buchanan, Christan Moffett-Lyle, Larry Kozlowski, Donna Graham, Mary Alice Ross, Marygrace Cirillo, Sharron Sontheimer, Vicki Farnsworth, Shirley Englert, Karen Shick, Brian & Penny Gresh, Candy & Arch Watkins, Sam Elder, Don Morey, Joan Doehrel, Pat Kerr, Connie Kerr-Vogt, Christine Petrone, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Dick & Diana Stoker, Cindy & Rich Filson, Harry & Susan Speakman, Kathy Sinnott, Maury & Linda Allen, Don & Donna Holder, Damian & Marcia Santabene, and Little Library visitors.

Sunday, November 29: Worship 930a, Bible Study 11a,
Choir: 10:45a only - Special Advent/Christmas Rehearsal.
Today is World Hunger Sunday: 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!***

Monday, December 1: Ministry Team 10:30a. Any member is welcome

Monday, December 1: Grief Support for the Holidays...for **anyone** grieving someone they love. **Fellowship Hall 6-8p** with **Janet Campbell, PhD.** Q&A, Counselors, Helpful Resources. Open to the Public.

Monday, December 1: Poinsettias for Christmas. If you wish to have a plant in the sanctuary for Christmas, this is last day for request forms and payment to be in the office. **Forms are on a table in the narthex.**

Wednesday, December 2: CHOIR: Cantata Rehearsal, 700p @ OLP.

Wednesday, December 9: Men's Night @ Primanti Bros, 6:30p. Sign-up sheet in narthex or just show up.

Saturday, December 12: Blue Christmas Memorial Service, New Hope @ 3p If you wish, bring an angel for the tree to remember your loved one(s). **Contact Kristin Woodring by 12/06** @ **814.323.9490** to include your loved one's name(s) in the service.

Stewardship Pledge Cards: It's not too late to **make your AHLC 2027 pledge.** Need a pledge card? Pick one up **in the narthex** and **return** to the Church office after worship or mail.

Wednesdays: Go Tell It In The Mountains on Zoom, 6:30–7:30p. Prepare your heart for worship by exploring Sunday's Bible readings with conversation, questions, and shared insights. Everyone is welcome! Meeting ID: 941 7381 5852 Passcode: 880291

Thursday's Care and Share Gathering: On hiatus until January 7.

Bethesda Christmas: A wish list of gifts for the children who reside at Bethesda is on the tree table in the narthex. **Unwrapped gifts** to **AHLC** by **Dec. 6.**

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!

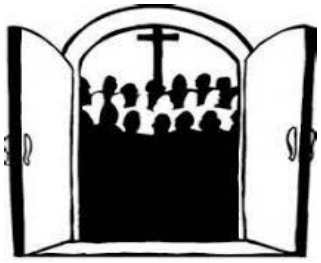
Sanctuary Flowers: If you wish to donate, sign the weekly sheet and **please complete the request form. Return** to the **office with payment, one week in advance**.

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

Office Vacation: Week of December 7.

Worship Leaders ~ November 29, 2026

Videographer	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Bob Hicks
Lector/Prayers	Nancy Cunning
Presenter	Penny Gresh
Presenter	Michele Rion
Communion Cups	Nancy Cunning
Communion Tray	Diana Stoker
Usherette	Linda Allen
Usher	Rick Penn
Counters	Nancy & Andy



Announcement of Congregation Meetings

All voting members (confirmed, communing, and contributing) of Abiding Hope Lutheran Church are encouraged to attend and participate in these two Congregation Meetings.

The **two meetings will be held directly after the 9:30 am service** at Abiding Hoping Hope Lutheran Church, 2402 West Grandview Blvd., Erie PA.

December 13, 2026

To approve the 2027 Annual budget; to elect Congregation Council members; to elect laypersons to serve as voting members of the 2027 Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly and to represent us at meetings of the Erie Conference; and to elect members of the Nominating and Auditing Committee. If you are interested in serving or would like additional information about any of these positions, please contact Pastor Karen Parsh or any current council member. The 2027 Proposed Budget will be emailed to members by November 30, or you can pick one up in the church narthex, or you can request that one be mailed to you by calling the church office on or before December 3th. (Please leave a voicemail outside of scheduled office hours of Mon and Tues 9:30-3:30 – Wed 9:30-12:30)

January 17, 2027

Annual Congregational Meeting – to review and approve the 2026 Bulletin of Reports; and to discuss both the Old and New Business. The Bulletin of Reports will be available to members one week prior to the meeting.

Please make every effort to attend these meetings.