

Transfiguration of Our Lord ~ February 11, 2024
Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

2402 W. Grandview Blvd. Erie PA 16506 – 814.868.8685
Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor 814.881.3266 – pastorparsh@gmail.com
Coordinator of Music – Sheryl Williams



The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ This morning, we welcome Jacque Holmberg as our Lay Minister and Howard Lyon for providing special music with selections from *Handel's Violin Sonata in A major*. Thank you to both.

PRELUDE ~ *Adagio and Allegro*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God

Please stand

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security.

We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

Hear the good news:

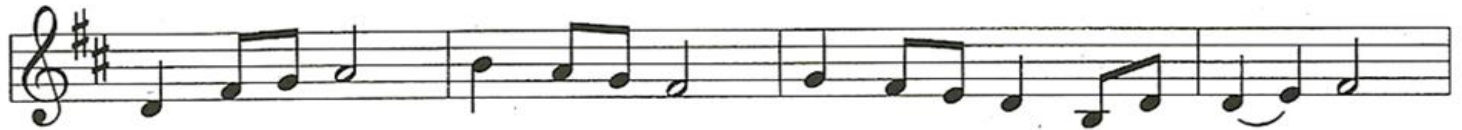
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ~ ELW 314 *Arise, Your Light Has 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



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



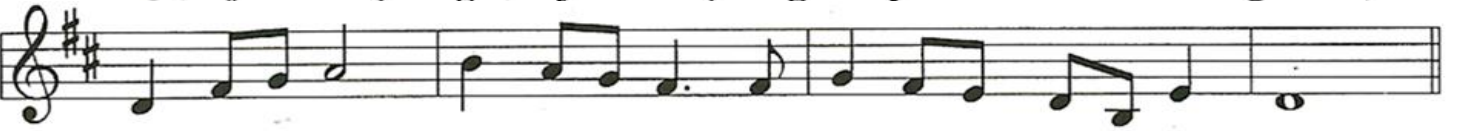
☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



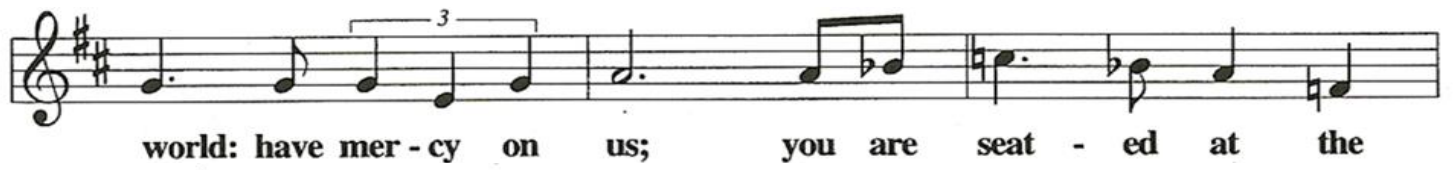
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



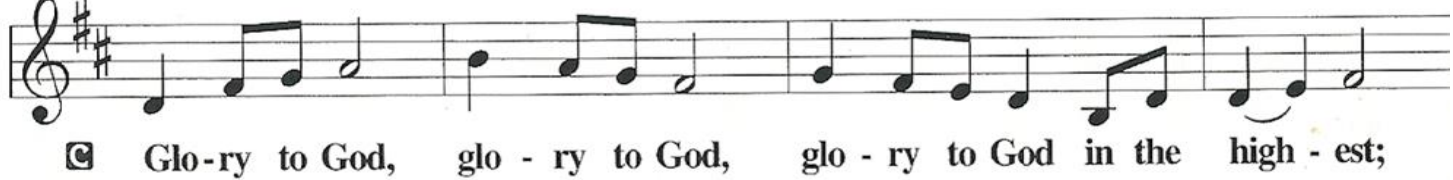
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



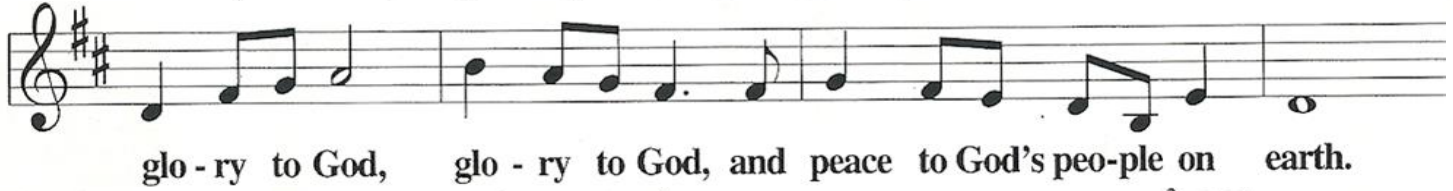
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



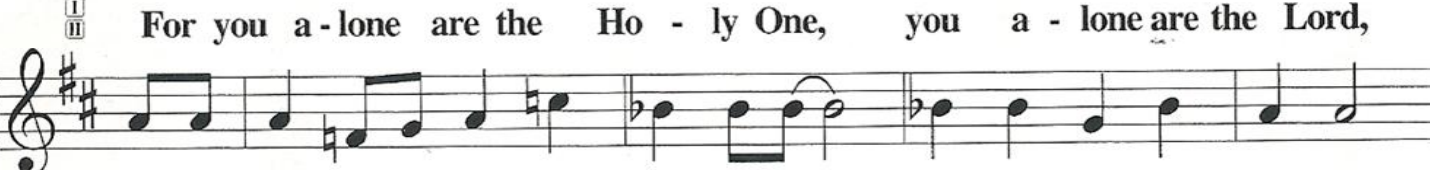
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



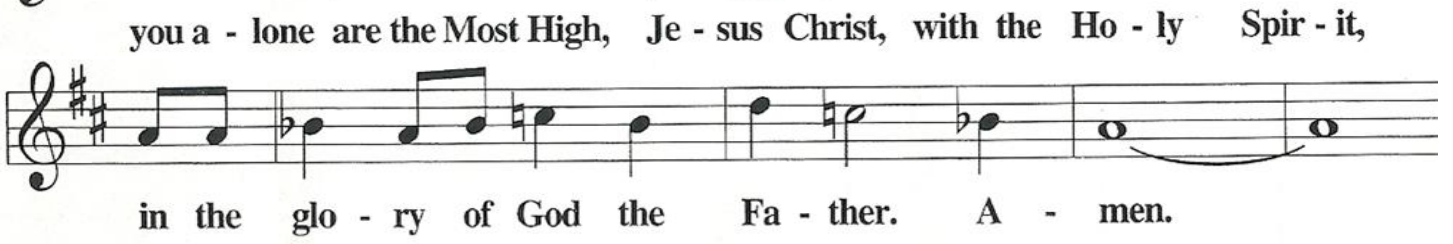
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



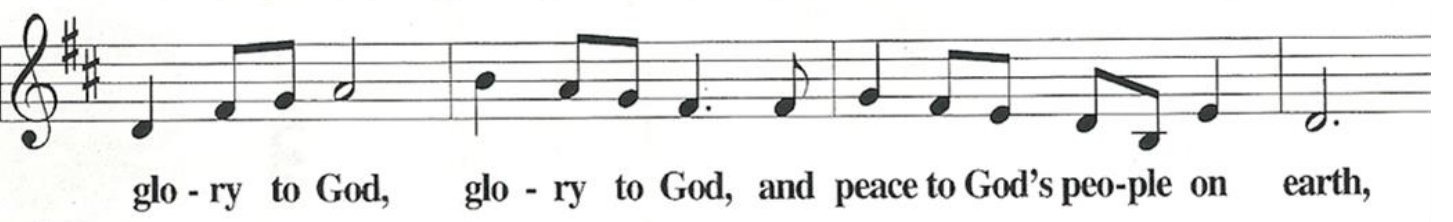
you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER of the DAY

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

A brief silence is kept before the prayer. **Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts.**

Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

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

Please be seated

FIRST READING: 2 KINGS 2:1-12

¹Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. ²Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. ³The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." ⁴Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the Lord has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. ⁵The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the Lord will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." ⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. ⁷Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. ⁸Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. ⁹When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." ¹⁰He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." ¹¹As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. ¹²Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

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

PSALM: 50:1-6 Response Spoken

¹The mighty one, God the LORD, has spoken;
calling the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

²**Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty,
God shines forth in glory.**

³Our God will come and will not keep silence;
with a consuming flame before, and round about a raging storm.

⁴**God calls the heavens and the earth from above
to witness the judgment of the people.**

⁵Gather before me my loyal followers,
those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice."

⁶**The heavens declare the rightness of God's cause,
for it is God who is judge.**

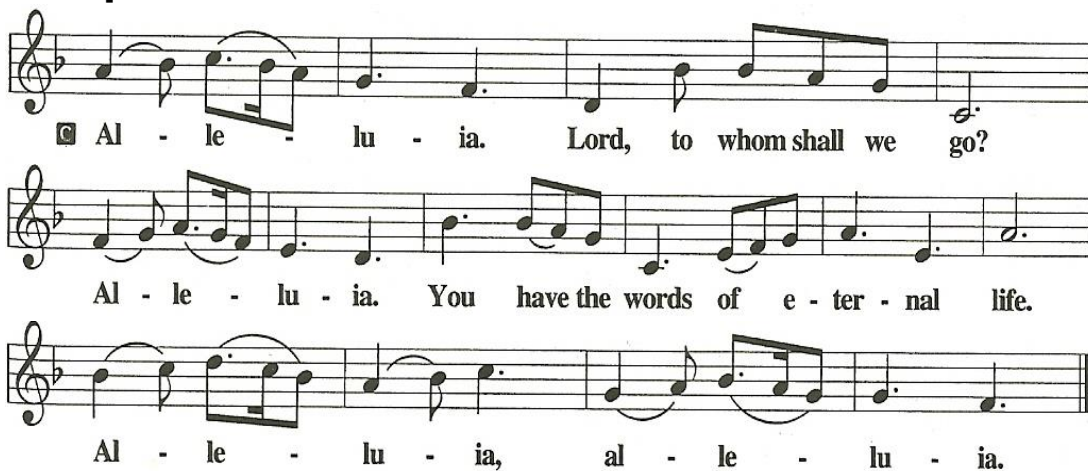
SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

³Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. ⁴In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. ⁵For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

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

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

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

GOSPEL: Mark 9:2-9

The holy gospel according to, St. Mark, Chapter 2. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, ³and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. ⁴And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. ⁵Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁶He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. ⁷Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" ⁸Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. ⁹As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

Please be seated

Sermon ~ Jacque Holmberg

Please stand

HYMN of the DAY ~ **ELW 316** *O Wondrous Image, Vision Fair*

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

As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for any who are stressed, grieving, sick or recovering from an illness, especially: Family & Friends of Joe, Ed & Jeanne, Ed R. Damian & Marcia, Pastor Karen & Dave, Diana, Don & Skip, Tammy and Evelyn. Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to anyone in need. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died. Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory.

God of grace,

receive our prayer.

Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING ~ *Andante*

Please stand

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ *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.

Assisting Minister

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. Amen**

Assisting Minister

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, 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.

Please be seated

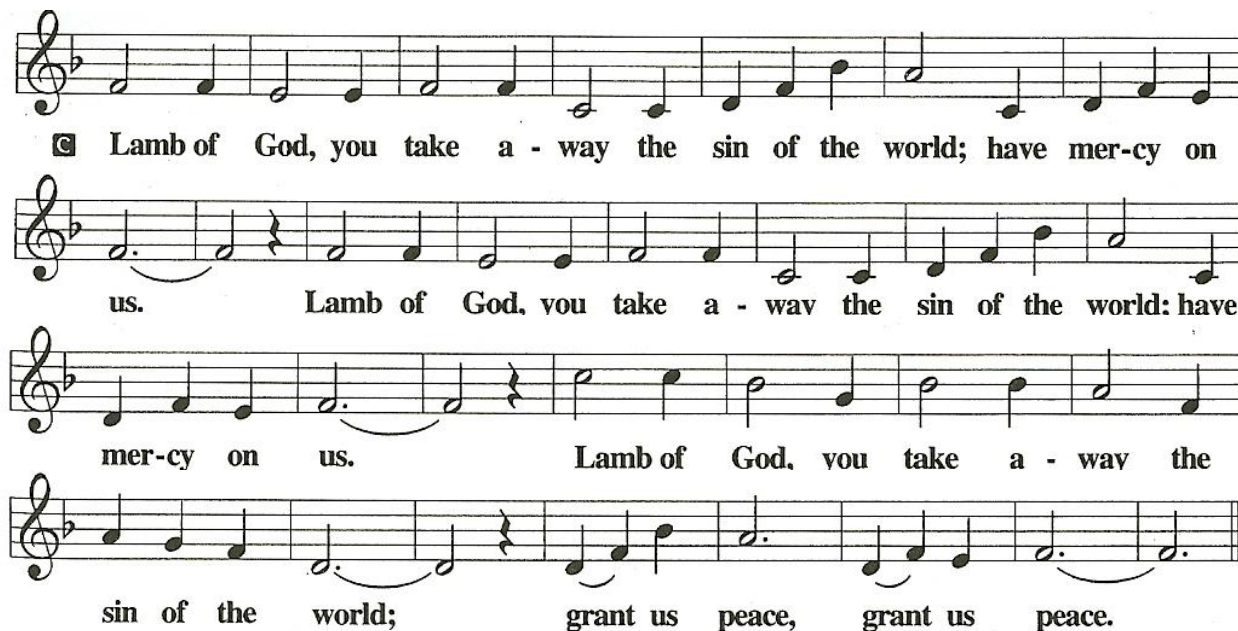
COMMUNION

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.

DISTRIBUTION of ELEMENTS ~ Lay Distributors

COMMUNION HYMNS ~ ELW 838 *Beautiful Savior*
Holy Ground pg. 10

Holy Ground

VERSE



1. As I walked through the door, I sensed His pres - ence.
(2. In His) pres - ence, there is joy be - yond meas - ure.



And I knew this was the place where love a - bounds, for this
And at His feet, peace of mind can still be found. If you



is a tem - ple, Je - ho - vah God a - bides here. We are stand - ing in His
have a need I know He has the an - swer. Reach out and claim it, child you're

CHORUS



pres - ence on ho - ly ground. We are stand - ing on ho - ly ground,
stand - ing on ho - ly ground.



and I know that there are an - gels all a - round. Let us praise



Je - sus now. We are stand - ing in His pres - ence on ho - ly ground.

(1) | 2

ENDING



2. In His pres - ence, we are stand - ing in His pres - ence, we are stand - ing in His



pres - ence on ho - ly ground.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. **God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

Please Stand

SENDING HYMN ~ ELW 671 *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE ~ Allegro

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Gospel Message ~ Just Listen

There are transfiguration moments in everyday life that can absolutely stop us in our tracks with the glory of Christ's presence: The smell of a new baby. Flowering trees blooming in the spring. The embrace of a friend when we need them most. Voices raised in cries for justice. The bravery of difficult conversations. The sacred minutes just before death. It may not be Jesus in dazzling clothes or a visit from the ancestors on a mountaintop, but by God's grace, we perceive the love of Christ shining brightly in these ordinary, yet holy, moments.

When they happen to us, what are we to do? It can be difficult, when in the presence of the divine, to know quite what to say. Peter, grasping at straws, offered to make three dwellings. You can't blame him—we all make weird choices when we are terrified! But a voice came from heaven: "Listen." It is not necessary to do or say anything. This moment is simply a gift. Our job is only to listen to Jesus.

Have you ever spent time just listening? Maybe outdoors, on a hike or in a park—listening to the sounds of creation. Or during a quiet moment in worship—the sound of cars driving by outside, or your neighbor breathing, or your own heart beating. Perhaps you have listened compassionately to a loved one who didn't need advice but just needed to be heard.

As people accustomed to *doing*, we can find it challenging to just listen. We may have learned that it is important for us to have something to say, something to offer, something to provide. But the good news of grace is that Christ's love has come to us even before we could do anything. That's why we baptize even helpless infants. That's why, when we come to communion, we do so with hands outstretched and empty, ready to receive: "This is the body of Christ." All we can do is listen . . . and say, "Amen."

PARISH NOTES ~ February 11, 2024

ahadministrator@hotmail.com - www.abidinghopeerie.org -

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

Sunday, February 18 ~ Annual Congregational Meeting after 9:30 service to review 2023 Annual Report and discussion old and new business.

Please pray for: Family & Friends of Joe Bennett, Ed & Jeanne Tropper, Ed Randall, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Skip Kleckner, Diana Stoker, Pastor Karen & Dave Parsh, Tammy Sharp McIntyre, and Evelyn Senger.

Until Tuesday, February 13, for pastoral emergencies, please contact **Pastor Erik Young** of St. Paul's Lutheran @ **310.686.6257**.

Sunday, February 11: Souper Bowl Sunday...if you forgot your **can(s) of soup**, you may write a **check to KAFP** or **designate part of your offering** to "Souper Bowl of Caring". Monetary donations maybe place in the soup kettle in the sanctuary or in the offering plate.

Tuesday, February 13th: Ministry meeting @ 10:30, Easter Flock @ 12:30 and Church Council @ 6:30 PM.

Wednesday, February 14: Ash Wednesday worship @ **11:00a** and also @ **7:00p** with **Pastor Erik Young** from St. Paul's and **Pastor Clay Woodring** from New Hope Presbyterian.

Wednesday, February 14: Lunch & Listen with speaker **Sandy Globa of Canine Companions** with her **3 Golden Retrievers**. Brown bag **lunch @ 12noon; speaker @ 12:30p**. Beverages/dessert provided. Bring a friend.

Thursday, February 15: Ladies Night Out @ **Torero's** (authentic Mexican cuisine) **5:30p**. Sign-up sheet in narthex or RSVP to Jacque Holmberg by Monday the 12th. Please advise Jacque if you need a ride. Drivers depart AHLC @ 5PM.

Wednesday, February 21: Mid-week **Lenten worship** begins for **each week** of Lent @ **6:00p** following the "**Soup Supper**" @ **5:30p**. A form to sign up to **bring soup and/or bread** is on the middle table in the narthex.

Easter Lilies/KAFP Easter Donations: The price for Easter lily plants came into the office too late for the form to be included in the February newsletter. A form, for ordering a plants(s) or donating to KAFP, is attached to the bulletin and copies are on the table in the narthex.

"Night of Food": Wish we had started a stopwatch! **Thank you** to the **15 sandwich makers** and **brown-bag packers** who joyfully and QUICKLY assembled meals, for the St John's Overflow Shelter folks, following worship service on Feb 4th. Also, thank you to our church family, including the T.O.P.S. members, who donated items and the cash needed to make this project a meaningful, stomach-filling success. – Jacque Holmberg

Little Free Library: We are pleased there is activity. Currently, books for adults are needed—fiction or nonfiction, as well as lots of bookmarks! Individual cereal cups or packets of oatmeal, dried fruits and granola bars would be welcomed. There is a box in the Heritage Room for donations. Thank you for your support.

Capital Funds Campaign: The sound system is installed and working. Contributions (in any amount) are still being accepted to help reach our goal. We are at a standstill! The chart for the donation progress is in the narthex. Please note on your checks that your gift is for the “Sound System”. Thanks to those who have contributed.

Narthex & Fellowship Hall TV monitors: We now have TV monitors on both levels thanks to members’ amazing donations and Andy Saska’s skillful installation. It will be a useful addition to our Bible studies and Speaker Series events as well as for promotion of upcoming events and items of interest.

Bethany Outreach: Please remember the **collection of used clothing and household items** is ongoing as well as pairs of shoes in good condition for **Chosen**. Drop off in the Heritage Room. Thank you! Analee Cree.

Are you on Facebook? Be sure to “friend” Abiding Hope and when you see an AHLC post, and LIKE and SHARE the post to help promote events at AHLC.

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

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up sheet and request forms on table in narthex. Arrangements-**\$20.00 each**. Place the **completed form and payment** in the offering plate, or to the office at least two weeks, no less than one, prior to your chosen Sunday.

CURRENT FUND REPORT

December Income	\$ 8,966.27	Year to Date Income	\$134,898.96
December Expenses	\$12,118.81	Year to Date Expenses	\$137,877.33
December Difference	\$-3,152.54	Year to Date Difference	\$ -2,978.37

2023 Budget \$129,399.00

WORSHIP LEADERS ~ February 11, 2024

Videographer	Penny Gresh
Greeter/Coffee	Mary Randall
Lector/Prayers	Donna Holder
Assisting Min/Acolyte	Analee Cree
Communion Assist/Wine	John Holmberg
Communion Assist/Cups	Kayla Miller
Communion Assost/Tray	Carol Korn
Usher	Rich Filson
Usher	Volunteer
Counters	Analee Cree & Andy Saska

2024 Easter Flowers or KAFP Donations

All are invited to place a lily plant in the altar area for
EASTER SERVICES on Sunday, March 31st

Please fill-in the following information and return the form with your payment in
an envelope, marked Easter Flowers.

Place in offering plate by MARCH 3rd or to the office by MARCH 5th. *Thank you.*

PLEASE PRINT

If necessary, use a second form for names to complete your request



Given to the glory of God:

In Loving Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

From: _____

PLEASE MARK THE NUMBER OF PLANTS: (*plants come with foil wrap*)

6 ½ inch Easter Lily \$8.50 ea. _____

Amount enclosed for flowers \$ _____ OR

Amount enclosed for the Food Pantry \$ _____



KEARSARGE FOOD PANTRY

Please complete this form and with your check in an envelope marked
KAFP EASTER

place in offering plate by Sunday, March 24th. *Thank you.*