

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Abiding Hope Lutheran Church

September 12, 2021

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Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

Prelude - Violin Solo *I Need Thee Every Hour*

Arr. S. Cardon

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in † Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG *Only By Grace*

CHORUS



On - ly by grace - can we en - ter, - on - ly by grace - can we stand, .



not by our hu - man en - deav - or, but by the blood of the Lamb.



In - to Your pres - ence You call us, You call us to come.



Last Time to Coda

In - to Your pres - ence, You draw us, and now by Your grace we come,



now by Your grace we come.



Lord, if You mark our trans - gres - sions, who would stand?



Thanks to Your grace we are cleansed by the blood of the Lamb.

Coda

Ending



now by Your grace we come. Now by Your grace we come.



now by Your grace we 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 in the high - est, 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 in the high - est, 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 in the high - est, and peace



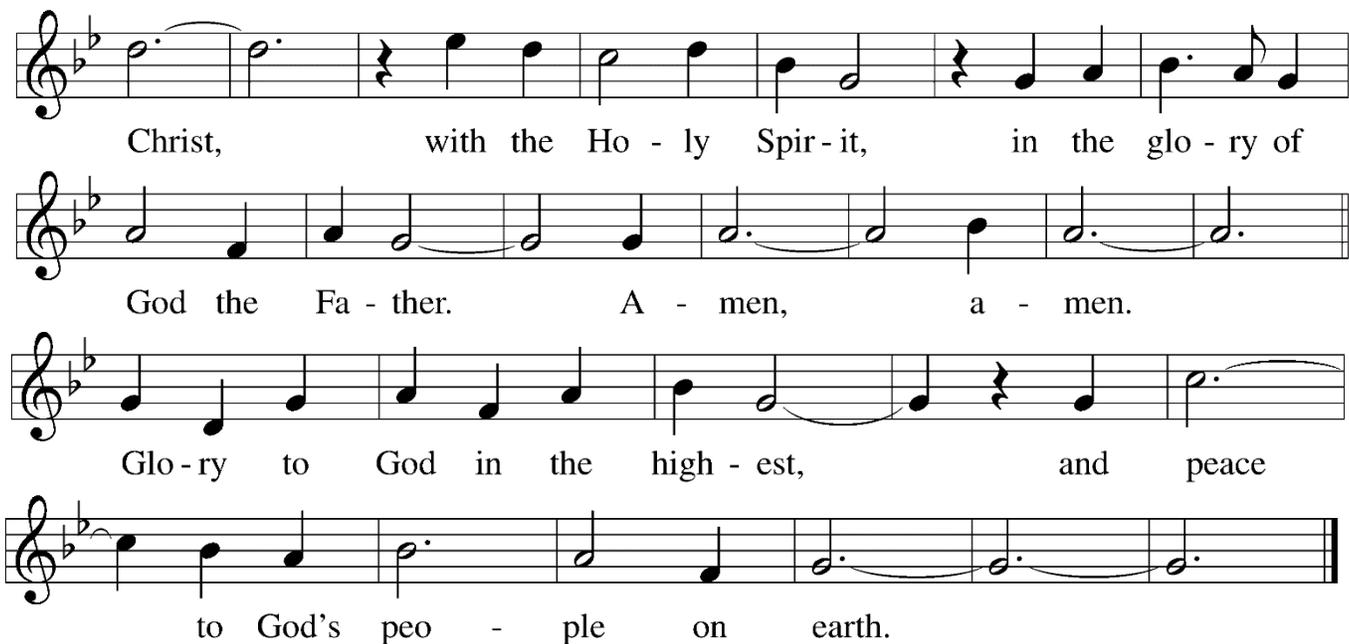
to God's peo - ple on earth.



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, a - men.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace
 to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER of the DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

A reading from Isaiah.

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

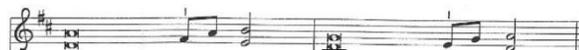
⁴The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 116:1-9

Sung Responsively

Tone 1



I love the LORD, who has ¹ heard my voice,
 and listened to my ¹ supplication,

²for the LORD has given ¹ ear to me
 whenev- ¹ er I called.

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave ¹ came upon me;
 I came to ¹ grief and sorrow.

⁴Then I called upon the name ¹ of the LORD:
 "O LORD, I pray you, ¹ save my life."

⁵Gracious is the ¹ LORD and righteous;
our God is full ¹ of compassion.

⁶The LORD watches o- ¹ ver the innocent;
I was brought low, ¹ and God saved me.

⁷Turn again to your rest, ¹ O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt ¹ well with you.

⁸For you have rescued my ¹ life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my ¹ feet from stumbling;

⁹I will walk in the presence ¹ of the LORD
in the land ¹ of the living.

Second Reading: James 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

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

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

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *O God, Our Hearts Were Shattered* -Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

O God, our hearts were shattered On that horrendous day;

We heard the news and gathered To grieve and then to pray.
We cried to you and wondered, "Where did the violence start?"
The world as we had known it Had just been torn apart.

We heard of those who perished – Of heroes' sacrifice.
We paused again to cherish The gifts of love and life.
We worried for the future; We hugged our loved ones then.
We cried, "Can peace be found here?" "We can't let terror win!"

Some sought to answer terror The only way they knew –
With anger toward the stranger And calls for vengeance, too.
Yet this is not your answer, Nor what you would create.
May we live toward a future Where love will conquer hate.

God, give us faith and wisdom To be your healing hands;
Give open minds that listen To truth from all your lands.
Give strength to work for justice; Grant love that casts out fear.
Then peace and not destruction Will be the victor here.

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

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Revealing God, you have made yourself known through bread and wine, water and word. Continue to nurture your church, that it is a place where your presence is experienced and shared.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creating God, you brought life into being and called it good. Bring new creation to lands devastated by tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, fires, and other disasters. Restore forests and curb overflowing waters. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Protecting God, you desire all people to live in peace and safety. Provide for all who are in danger. Strengthen first responders to help meet to the complex needs of others. Provide care and compassion as they face trauma themselves. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Transforming God, you announce release to the captives and freedom to the oppressed. Break chains of discrimination and injustice. Amplify voices that go unheard and inspire us to advocate for the those who are overlooked. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Forming God, you gather this community together. Shape our communal life, that in our prayer, praise, and worship, we honor you and encourage one another. Keep our disagreements civil and increase our joy in working together. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Redeeming God, you accompany your people through every stage of life. We give you thanks for the saints who now rest in your embrace. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The assembly greets each other from their pew space, then is seated

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and 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;

who on this day overcame death and the grave,
 and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
 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, 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, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Lamb of God



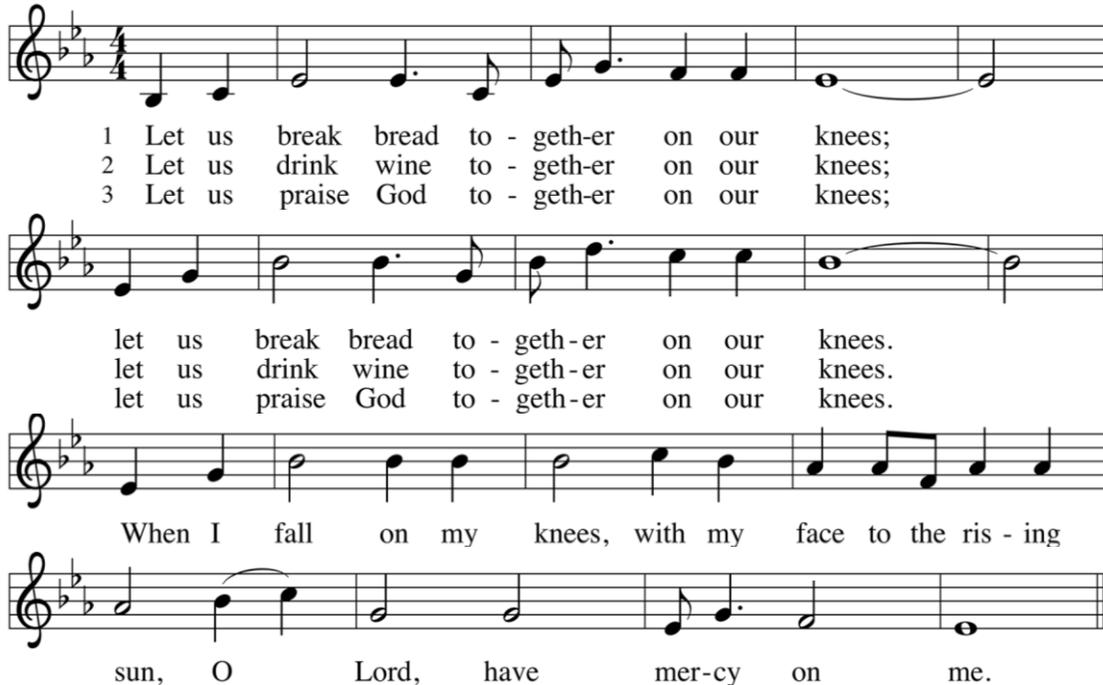
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. / The blood of Christ, shed for you.

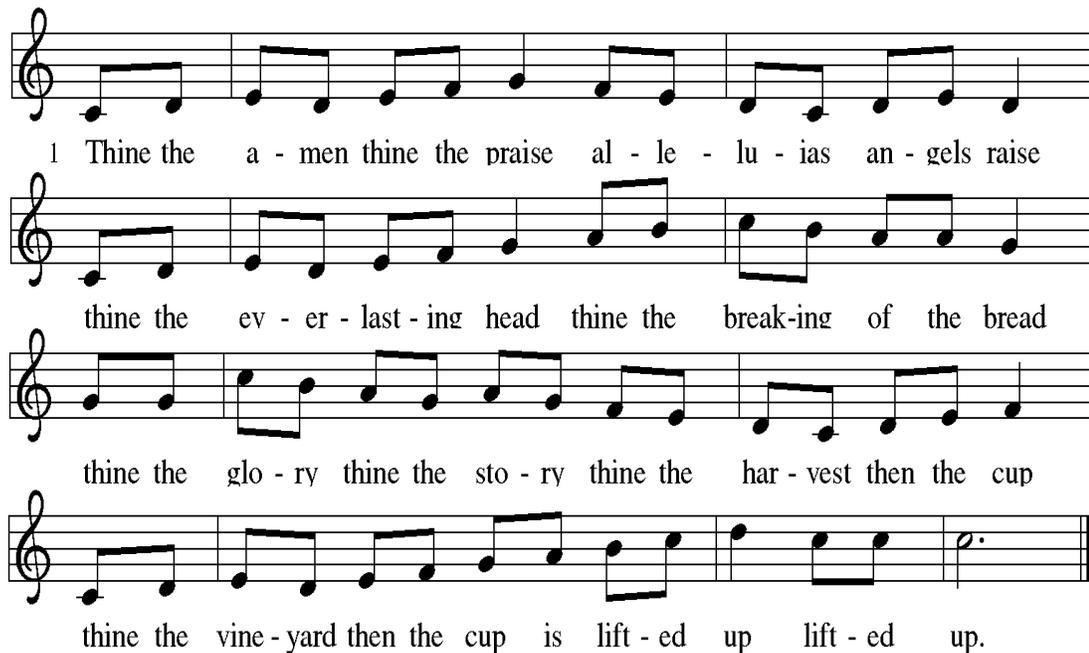
Communion Hymn ELW 471 *Let Us Break Bread Together*



1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;
let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Violin Solo ~ *More Holiness Give Me* arr. S. Cardon

Post Communion Canticle *Thine the Amen. Thine the Praise*



1 Thine the a - men thine the praise al - le - lu - ias an - gels raise
thine the ev - er - last - ing head thine the break - ing of the bread
thine the glo - ry thine the sto - ry thine the har - vest then the cup
thine the vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.

The assembly stands.

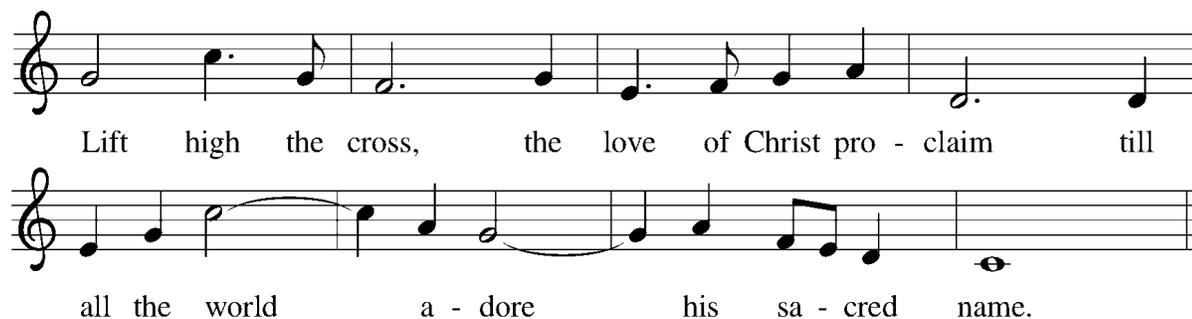
Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

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.

Sending Hymn - ELW 660 *Lift High the Cross* v.1 & 4



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till
all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude ~ Violin Solo *Allegro Moderato* from Sonatina in G Minor -F Schubert

GOSPEL MESSAGE - Who Are You?

“Who do people say that I am? . . . But who do *you* say that I am?” (Mark 8:27, 29). Jesus’ questions to the disciples highlight a distinction between what society at large recognizes about him, and what those closest to him know. From the outside, Jesus looks to many people like an important prophet or great moral teacher at best; at worst, he is an irrelevant rule-giver.

To those who know him, though, the answer is different. We who have been baptized into his family and nourished with his body and blood, we who hear his voice in the words of absolution and the promises of scripture, we who have felt his healing power through the gift of the Holy Spirit know just a bit more. This Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah. Like Peter, even we who know the story may wish to reject the necessity of Christ’s death. The words of the beloved Holy Week hymn echo deeply, “Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?” (ELW 343).

Who are you? You are a sinner in need of redemption, the one for whom Christ has died, a beloved child of God, and a sibling of your Messiah. Jesus rebukes Peter not for Peter’s compassion or desire for Jesus to avoid suffering, but because the compassion and desire are misplaced. We need a Messiah—and we have one—precisely because we don’t need any more prophets, moral teachers, or irrelevant rule-givers. We are sinners who need forgiveness. We are broken people in need of healing. And we have found what we need in Jesus, the Messiah. The world will always set its mind on human things; may the Holy Spirit set your mind on divine things and continue to confirm in you the truth of Jesus Christ, who was crucified, died, and raised on the third day for you.

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Parish Notes ~ September 12, 2021

Please pray for: John Holmberg, Judy Nordin. Steven Naruswicz, Judy Pacileo, Joe Pacileo, Bishop Lozano, Bob Pacileo, Carrie Fiske, Evelyn Senger, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, Joyce Hersperger, Teresa Burgess. *Names will remain on our printed lists for four weeks unless renewed.*

Prayer Requests: Please call or email Pastor Karen with prayer requests or any **pastoral emergencies.** Contacts for Pastor Karen: 814-881-3266 or pastorparsh@gmail.com.

In-Person Worship: Saturday evening @ 5:30pm.

NEW Sunday Schedule for In-Person Worship: Beginning Sunday September 19th, morning services will be offered @ **8:30a and 10:30a.** The 10:30a service will live-stream on Facebook and then posted to the AHLC web page.

Adult Choir: Wednesday evening @ 6:00p.

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

Family Picnic: Today, following the 9:30a service. Join in to enjoy the company of your Abiding Hope Family. Hot dogs, condiments, water, pop and table ware will be provided. Bring a dish to share. Tables & chairs will be set up in the lower level parking area and in the fellowship hall.

Blessing of Backpacks: will be at the 9:30a service. Pastor Karen will bless backpacks for students/teachers for the 2021-2022 school year.

Ladies Dining Out! Where: **Sloppy Duck on the Bay** -726 W. Bayfront Pkwy. When: **Thursday, Sept. 16th**. Carpool leaving AH parking lot at 5:05p or meet at the restaurant by 5:30p. **RSVP by Sept. 14th to Jacque Holmberg - 814-490-4470** We hope that you can join us for this time of fun and food. (Dutch treat/masks required). If you're able to be a driver, please let Jacque know how many people total can travel in your car.

Bible Study: Starting Sunday, **September 19th through the 1st week in November** bible study will be held weekly following the 8:30a service. Pastor Karen will lead a lively discussion and study of what it means to be **Lutheran**. The class will follow the text of the **AUGSBURG CONFESSION:** a contemporary commentary (written in plain and simple language). Twelve books are available. If more books are needed Pastor will order from Amazon.

Coffee & Fellowship: Gathering is in the narthex. **September 19th @ 9:30a & 10:30a**

Crop Walk 2021 September 26th. This walk supports 3,600 local food banks and soup kitchens. Globally, the Crop Walk supports water systems, purchases tools and trains how to grow food. You can walk & collect, go on-line to, #CROPHungerWalk - choose Abiding Hope - make a donation or place your donation in an envelope Marked Crop Walk and place in offering plate.

U.S. Disasters: With the horrible disasters in the U.S. this year, Hurricane Ida in the South and Northeast and the Wildfires in the West, **Lutheran Disaster Response** is developing plans to accompany on-the-ground partners, including social ministry organizations and synods in those areas. With your support, hurricane survivors will know they're not alone. This is an important part of Christ's call on our church. Checks or money orders can be sent to: **Lutheran Disaster Response P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009** (Write "Hurricane Ida" or "US Wildfires" on your check memo line), or give by phone at **800-638-3522** or online. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Central time.

Bishop Lozano Prayers are powerful and are requested to be continued. Cards and notes, which can be the medicine he needs on days when it is hardest to keep strong, are requested. They will be forwarded to the Bishop several times. A box is in the Narthex.

Finances at AHLC

Erie Gives: Great News!

We received a check from Erie Gives for **\$20,208.97**. Abiding Hope was **#92** out of the **438** nonprofits. 23 donors gave \$19,095. Our **matching funds** were **\$1,113.97**.

\$28,186 current offerings received in August 2021 (**Includes Erie Gives Check**)

\$12,151 needed monthly to meet 2021 budgeted expenses (not adjusted for reduced pastor expenses)

Year-to-Date

\$96,767 as of end of August

\$97,208 needed for budgeted expenses (not adjusted for reduced pastor expenses).