

For worship with a Lay Distributor, consecrated communion sets are available at the church - Monday & Tuesday 9:30am-2:30pm, or by contacting a council member

RETURN  
to the  
LORD  
YOUR  
GOD



## Fifth Sunday in Lent March 21, 2021

### Abiding Hope Lutheran Church, Erie PA

God promises Jeremiah that a "new covenant" will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God's heart through Christ and draws God's love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God's love with all the world.

## Gathering

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

### Welcome & Announcements

#### Prelude

#### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion. Return to the Lord.

**Come back to your true life again.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Fountain of living water,

**pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.**

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ☩ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

### Gathering Hymn ELW 660 *Lift Hight the Cross* v.1,3

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,  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

1



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.

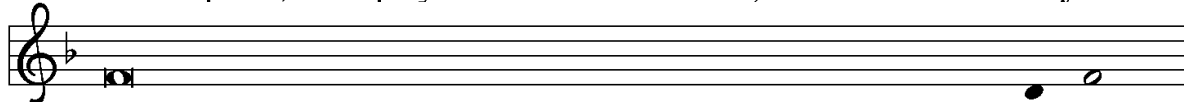
### Greeting

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

### Kyrie



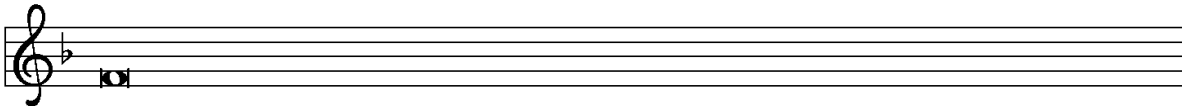
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



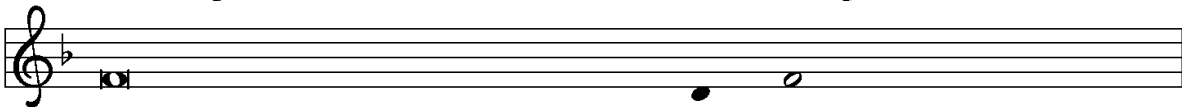
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



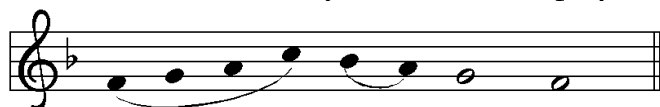
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



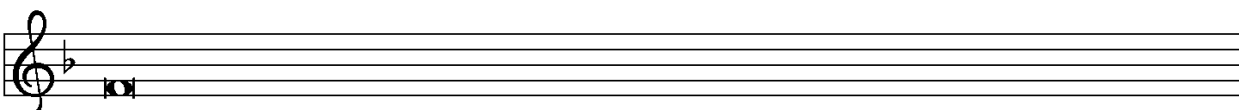
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



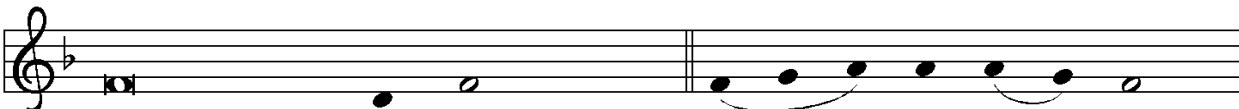
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



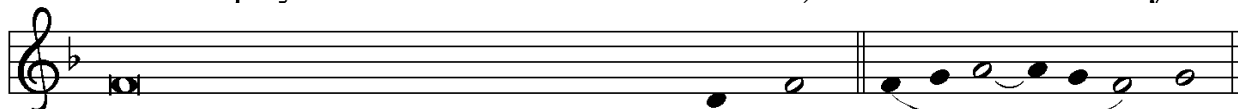
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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



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

1. Fa - ther, we love You, we wor - ship and a - dore You,  
 2. Je - sus...  
 3. Spir - it...

glo - ri - fy Thy name in all the earth. Glo - ri - fy Thy  
 name,  
 glo - ri - fy Thy name,  
 glo - ri - fy Thy name in all the earth.

### Prayer of the Day

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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### Word

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

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### Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

*The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.*

A reading from Jeremiah

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

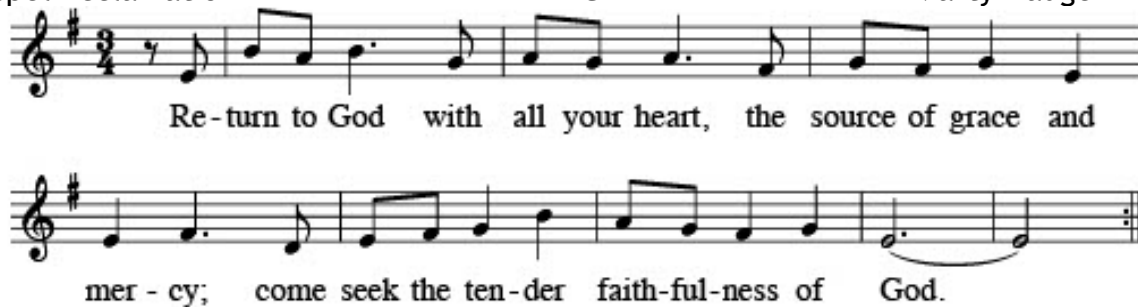
**Psalm 51:1-12**      *Create in me a clean heart, O God.*      ***prayed responsively***

- <sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- <sup>2</sup>**Wash me through and through from my wickedness,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**
- <sup>3</sup>For I know my offenses,  
and my sin is ever before me.
- <sup>4</sup>**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;  
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
- <sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,  
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- <sup>6</sup>**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,  
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- <sup>7</sup>Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- <sup>8</sup>**Let me hear joy and gladness;  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- <sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my wickedness.
- <sup>10</sup>**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.**
- <sup>11</sup>Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup>**Restore to me the joy of your salvation  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

*Return to God*

Marty Haugen



**Gospel: John 12:20-33**

*Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus' words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.*

Return to the Lord.

**Come back to your true life again.**

The holy gospel according to John, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>20</sup>Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup>Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup>Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup>Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup>“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” <sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” <sup>33</sup>He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

## Kids' Message

**Sermon**                      Jacque Holmberg: Lay Worship Leader

**Hymn of the Day**   ELW 334    *Tree of Life*   v.1,2



Lent 5                      God of all our fear and sorrow,  
God who lives beyond our death,  
hold us close through each tomorrow,  
love as near as every breath.

## Prayers of Intercession

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

You wash us through and through and remember our sin no more. Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Give your people courage to forgive; through them show the world new possibilities. Bless ministries of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You fill the earth—from tiny grains of wheat to the mighty thunder—with your presence, and you call us to attend to your will for all creation. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, and wildfires. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You promise to write your law on our hearts. Guide citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give them creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely or feel unforgivable, those who need healing of mind or body, those who are dying, and all who grieve. We pray especially for (say aloud the first names only from bulletin list, then add “and for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts.”) Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Jesus calls us to follow him in life and death. Empower this congregation in discipleship. Equip children and teachers in Sunday school, confirmation, and learning ministries. Give us your truth and wisdom and teach us to follow Jesus. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

In the cross of Christ, your name is glorified. We praise you for those who have given us words to worship you. With all those who have died in Christ, bring us into life everlasting. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **An Offering Moment**

Lent calls us to return to God. Giving alms, prayer, and fasting traditionally are Lenten disciplines involved with our return. Whether you worship at home, online or in-person, we invite you to remember Abiding Hope with your offerings during this season of Lent as you return to God.

Let us pray. Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

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### **Meal**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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*(At this service of worship, we receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion through the distribution of the elements blessed at a previous celebration. Our Lay Distributors of Holy Communion were selected by the congregational council, received instruction, and were appointed by our synodical bishop. They will serve this congregation during times of pastoral vacancy so that we may continue to receive communion as Christ's body here at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church.)*

**PRAYERS of DISTRIBUTION - Lay Distributor: John Holmberg**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. Amen.

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### **Sending**

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**Sending Hymn ELW 538**    *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,  
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.  
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain  
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;  
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

**Blessing**

Return to the Lord.

**Come back to your true life again.**

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and beloved, freed to serve your neighbor.

God bless you ✝ that you may be a blessing, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.

**Amen.**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**



**Parish Notes for March 21, 2021**

**Please pray for:**

The grieving, especially for Pastor Andrew and Diane Edwards on the death of her mother, Norma Bluhm, Pr. Gail Zackrisson and family, the friends of Bob Holderer, Matt & Sally Zill, and Cindy & Rich Filson. We pray also for Bishop Lozano, Pastor Washill, Bob Pacileo, Don Fuller, Judy, Suzanne & Bill Clark, Judy Nordin, Gloria & Richard Wolbach, Karen & Bill Fitzpatrick & Joshua Norfolk, Shirley Lawson, Julie Saska, Tom, Betty, Cathy K., Shirley Wolbach, Jack & Marjorie Wonner, Lynn, Joyce Hersperger, Sandy Pacileo, Trevor Murnock, Carrie Fiske, Teresa Burgess.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 9:30-2:30. On other days, you may contact our council president Andy Saska at [avsaska@roadrunner.com](mailto:avsaska@roadrunner.com) or 814-450-5620.

**Pastoral Emergencies:** Rev. Albert U. Gesler, Jr at 814-873-2682

**Prayer Requests:** Please call or email Carol Whitbred with prayer requests.  
Phone: 814-866-6552 - E-Mail: cew6@psu.edu

**Packaged Communion Sets are available for your use during worship services.** Please pick yours up at church on Monday & Tuesday 9:30 am-2:30 pm, or make arrangements with a council member.

**Looking for a volunteer opportunity? How about Financial Secretary?**

According to our constitution and bylaws, no elected officer shall be eligible to serve more than five consecutive terms in the same office. Therefore, someone other than Pat Wenzel will need to be Financial Secretary in 2022. The main duties are entering weekly contributions, composing monthly reports to church council, and mailing out quarterly statements. It averages about 2 hours a week...any day or time that is convenient for you as long as the office computer is available. If this is something that interests you, contact Pat Wenzel and arrange to shadow her (in person or virtually) to acquaint yourself with the job. Contact her at [RNWenzel@gmail.com](mailto:RNWenzel@gmail.com) or phone 864-1898.

**FINANCES AT AH - YEAR-TO-DATE** (as of end of February):

\$14,302 current offerings received in February 2021  
\$12,151 needed monthly to meet 2021 **budgeted** expenses

**YEAR-TO-DATE** (as of end of February)

\$23,857 year-to-date current offerings received  
\$24,302 year-to-date needed for **budgeted** expenses

**During this time of transition**, guest worship leaders have been invited to preside at worship services. Because of this, sermons may not always be included in the USPS bulletin mailings.

Palm Sunday: Rick Penn, Analee Cree

Easter Day: Rev. Andrew Edwards

(The Abiding Hope congregation is invited to participate in online, in-person, or in-parking lot Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter worship services with other local, Lutheran congregations. Some of their worship schedule details will be included in our April newsletter.)

**Today we return to in-person Sunday worship services.** We will continue to email and mail weekly worship bulletins for all who worship at home. We will observe guidelines to keep everyone safe.

- There will be only one service at 9:30 AM on Sundays.
- We will continue to live-stream on FaceBook, then post the service to our web page.
- Masks are mandatory.
- Please use the provided hand sanitizer upon entering the church.
- If you have any symptoms, please stay home.
- Our seating arrangement will reflect social distancing.
  - Only families can sit together
  - There is a limit of approximately 25 people (depending on the number of families sitting together)
  - Pews will be taped off.
- There will be a sign-in sheet in case of a need for contact tracing.
- Printed bulletins will be placed on the pews.
- We will not be sharing the peace.
- We will only be singing 2 verses of a song.
- Communion will be in the pews with the packaged communion wafer and wine.

**Easter Day RSVP:** Please contact the church office at 814-868-8685 to reserve seats for the Easter Day worship service. Your name and the number of people attending are needed. If no one answers, please leave a message. There is limited seating and it will be on a first come and first serve basis. We look forward to being able to worship ALL TOGETHER again and will keep you updated as guidelines change, hopefully in the near future.