

May 14th, 2023
6th Sunday of Easter



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Synod
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Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12) Join us after the service for coffee. Also join us for Sunday School at 10:45 and Adult Bible Study at 11:00.

HOLY COMMUNION

Our worship service is open to all. The forgiveness received in the Lord's Supper is proclaimed to all throughout the service. However, the Bible teaches that the Lord's Supper is to be received by those who have been instructed about its meaning and the unity it expresses.

*For this reason, we ask that guests speak with the Pastor
before partaking of the Holy Supper.*

HE LIVES AND CALLS ME TO LIVE FOR HIM

“The LORD God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die’” (Genesis 2:16,17). In giving that command, God showed love to man by making it clear that it is lethal to live contrary to God's will. In giving that command, God provided man with the ability to demonstrate love for God—through obedience. True love involves obedience. Jesus did not simply say he loved his heavenly Father. He proved it by obeying his Father, even when that obedience meant dying on a cross for our sake.

Love for God who lives in us leads us to a life of obedience. The God who lives in us calls us to live for him. It is as simple as that. Love for our risen Lord means obedience to his commands.

*The service continues with **The Service: Setting One** on page 154 of the hymnal.*

FIRST READING**ACTS 17:22-31**

To the people of Athens St. Paul proclaims that living as the offspring of the one true God means living a life of repentance and obedience.

²²Paul then stood up in the meeting of the Areopagus and said: “People of Athens! I see that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I walked around and looked carefully at your objects of worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: to an unknown god. So you are ignorant of the very thing you worship—and this is what I am going to proclaim to you.

²⁴“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. ²⁵And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. ²⁶From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. ²⁷God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. ²⁸‘For in him we live and move and have our being.’ As some of your own poets have said, ‘We are his offspring.’

²⁹“Therefore since we are God’s offspring, we should not think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone—an image made by human design and skill. ³⁰In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. ³¹For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

PSALM 66C: LET ALL THE EARTH SING OUT**(Page 328)**

We will speak the verses responsively by the half verse.

SECOND READING**1 PETER 3:13-22**

St. Peter teaches that love for God means obedience to his commands even if that obedience brings suffering into our lives.

¹³Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear their threats; do not be frightened.” ¹⁵But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. ¹⁷For it is better, if it is God’s will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was

put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. ¹⁹After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— ²⁰to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, ²¹and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also— not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand— with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

JOHN 14:15-21

Jesus explains that those who love him will obey his teaching. Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit who gives us the power to live for Christ.

¹⁵“If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

<i>HYMN: DEAR CHRISTIANS, ONE AND ALL, REJOICE</i>	<i>557</i>
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SERMON on 1 PETER 3:13-22

The service continues on page 162.

<i>DISTRIBUTION HYMN: LORD JESUS CHRIST, YOU HAVE PREPARED</i>	<i>667</i>
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<i>HYMN: LORD, NOW YOU LET YOUR SERVANT</i>	<i>951</i>
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The service continues on page 170.

<i>HYMN: WHAT THREAT OF HARM CAN HINDER ME</i>	<i>875</i>
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