

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



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. 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.*

### **THE HOLY MINISTRY PREACHES CHRIST DESPITE PERSECUTION**

From its birth the New Testament Church has been persecuted. The religious leaders in Jerusalem tried to stamp it out, but they only succeeded in spreading Christianity throughout Judea and Samaria. The Roman Empire persecuted Christians with stakes and lions, yet God's Church exploded with growth in those early centuries. In Martin Luther's day, both pope and emperor sought to stop the gospel movement that was spreading from Germany. But God was a mighty fortress for the Church.

Still today the Church is persecuted. Every day thirteen Christians worldwide are killed because of their faith. Another twelve are arrested or imprisoned simply because they profess faith in Christ Jesus. In the U.S. we have freedom of religion enshrined as a constitutional right, but that is no guarantee for a life free of persecution. Until Judgment Day, some will attempt to shout down the truth of Christ. We will be persecuted. That won't stop us. The holy ministry preaches Christ despite persecution. Christ never promised his Church that ministry would operate unopposed. But he did promise to give courage to his witnesses.

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

**FIRST READING****JEREMIAH 20:7–13**

*For prophesying God's truth Jeremiah had been beaten and put in stocks. Yet Jeremiah refused to remain silent.*

<sup>7</sup>You deceived me, Lord, and I was deceived; you overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me. <sup>8</sup>Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction. So the word of the Lord has brought me insult and reproach all day long.

<sup>9</sup>But if I say, "I will not mention his word or speak anymore in his name," his word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot. <sup>10</sup>I hear many whispering, "Terror on every side! Denounce him! Let's denounce him!" All my friends are waiting for me to slip, saying, "Perhaps he will be deceived; then we will prevail over him and take our revenge on him." <sup>11</sup>But the Lord is with me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will fail and be thoroughly disgraced; their dishonor will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup>Lord Almighty, you who examine the righteous and probe the heart and mind, let me see your vengeance on them, for to you I have committed my cause. <sup>13</sup>Sing to the Lord! Give praise to the Lord! He rescues the life of the needy from the hands of the wicked.

**SECOND READING****2 TIMOTHY 4:1–8**

*Paul taught that many people in this world cannot bear sound doctrine. Instead, they persecute it.*

<sup>1</sup>In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup>Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup>For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup>They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup>But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

<sup>6</sup>For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. <sup>8</sup>Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

**GOSPEL****MATTHEW 10:5A,21–33**

*Jesus guaranteed that when we carry out gospel ministry in his name, there will be many that hate us for it.*

<sup>5</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions:

<sup>21</sup>“Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. <sup>22</sup>You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup>When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

<sup>24</sup>“The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup>It is enough for students to be like their teachers, and servants like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, how much more the members of his household!

<sup>26</sup>“So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. <sup>27</sup>What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. <sup>28</sup>Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. <sup>30</sup>And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup>So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

<sup>32</sup>“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. <sup>33</sup>But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.

<b><i>HYMN: JESUS, PRICELESS TREASURE</i></b>	<b>823</b>
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**SERMON on 2 TIMOTHY 4:1–8**

*The service continues on page 162.*

<b><i>DISTRIBUTION HYMN: YOUR BODY, GIVEN FOR ME, O SAVIOR</i></b>	<b>671</b>
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<b><i>HYMN: LORD, NOW YOU LET YOUR SERVANT</i></b>	<b>951</b>
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*The service continues on page 170.*

<b><i>SOLO: LORD, WHEN YOUR GLORY I SHALL SEE</i></b>	<b>884</b>
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