

September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
17<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. Also join us for Sunday School at 10:45 and 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.*



## A Time for Everything

### A Time to Prioritize

Stewardship is the lifelong management of all the resources God has given us. That includes a quickly-depleting resource called "time." So much competes for it. Taking the time to manage the time we have left has huge implications on how we individually and as a church use it for Christ and each other.

"A Time for Everything" is a stewardship series to draw attention to the precious time we have left in our lives.

- **A TIME TO PRIORITIZE**
- A Time for PERSPECTIVE
- A Time to PLAN
- A Time to PAUSE

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**CONFESSION**

CW 154

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Almighty and merciful Father,**

**we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.**

**We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.**

**We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.**

**We have done those things that we should not have done,**

**and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord!**

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,**

**according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **LORD, HAVE MERCY**

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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 mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## **♪ GLORY BE TO GOD ON HIGH ♪**

CW 157

**Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

**We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,**

**we glorify you, we give thanks to you, for your great glory,**

**O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.**

**O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

**O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,**

**you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.**

**You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.**

**For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.**

**You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit,**

**are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **THE WORD**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## FIRST READING

**JOSHUA 24:14-24**

<sup>14</sup> “Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup> It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our fathers up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. <sup>18</sup> And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.”

<sup>19</sup> Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. <sup>20</sup> If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”

<sup>21</sup> But the people said to Joshua, “No! We will serve the Lord.”

<sup>22</sup> Then Joshua said, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.”

“Yes, we are witnesses,” they replied.

<sup>23</sup> “Now then,” said Joshua, “throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

<sup>24</sup> And the people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God and obey him.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING**

**EPHESIANS 5:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia. Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Alleluia. *Matthew 6:33*

## GOSPEL

## MATTHEW 6:25-34

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? <sup>27</sup> Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?

<sup>28</sup> “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. <sup>29</sup> Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. <sup>30</sup> If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? <sup>31</sup> So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ <sup>32</sup> For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. <sup>33</sup> But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup> Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

***HYMN: O GOD, MY FAITHFUL GOD***

**CW 740**

**SERMON on JOSHUA 24:14-24**

*Stand*

## **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 in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian 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.**

*Be seated*



## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

O God and Father, loving creator of all things in heaven and on earth, we bow in prayer before you and offer our common supplication. We are unable by our own reason or strength to walk worthily in the faith to which you have called us or to render the obedience which you command. Have mercy upon us. Forgive us and renew us.

Pour out on us your Holy Spirit that we may have those virtues which are pleasing in your sight. In place of our stubbornness and self-will, bestow submission to your will; for our pride and conceit, endow us with lowliness of mind; for our complaining and vengeful spirits, give us a spirit of meekness; for our resentment and anger, grant us patience. Help us by your grace to bear in love each other's faults and infirmities, to serve one another in charity and kindness, and to bless those who may seek to harm us.

Look with mercy on your Church, O God. Show yourself the guardian of all our families, and enable all parents to give wise reproof, spiritual admonition, and a wholesome example to their children, that they may be edified and strengthened for usefulness and service to you and all people. Set your healing powers to work in the sick and all the afflicted. Hear their cry, remember them in your mercy and uphold them by the comforting power of your Spirit.

*Special prayers of thanksgiving or intercession may be spoken here*

Finally, Lord, show yourself a very present help in trouble and increase our trust in you and your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose gracious name we offer these and all other petitions which you see in our hearts. Amen.

# THE SACRAMENT

*Stand*

## PREFACE

CW 165

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

## ♪ HOLY, HOLY, HOLY ♪

CW 167

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts:**

**heav'n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

By his incarnation, he became one with us.

By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.

By his innocent death, he overcame hell.

By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.

Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my T blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**Amen.**

## **♪ O Christ, Lamb of God ♪**

CW 169

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your  
peace. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## DISTRIBUTION

***HYMN: SOUL, ADORN YOURSELF WITH GLADNESS***

**CW 663**

Stand

***HYMN: LORD, NOW YOU LET YOUR SERVANT***

**CW 951**

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;  
**his mercy endures forever.**

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
**we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.**

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this saving gift. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

**Amen.**

***HYMN: DAY BY DAY***

**CW 803**

## Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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