

November 19, 2023  
25<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**  
513.677.9357      [abidingword.com](http://abidingword.com)

Pastor -Troy Jacobs      937.503.3333      [welstroyjacobs@yahoo.com](mailto:welstroyjacobs@yahoo.com)

### **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) Please join us for coffee after the service. Also join us for Sunday School at 10:45 and Bible Study at 11:00.

### ***THE TIME IN BETWEEN***

In the great timeline of human history, there are only two ultimately significant points: the first time Christ came to our world to win salvation by his life, death, and resurrection; and the second time Christ will come to consummate his everlasting kingdom. We live in the time in between those two points. It is a time of tension. We know that peace and perfection are ours already because of what Jesus did the first time he came. Yet we do not enjoy a peaceful and perfect existence now already. We will not know such a life until Christ comes again. And so we wait and watch, living in the time in between. As the church year draws to a close, Scripture points us toward the end of time when Christ will come again. Until then Christ teaches us how to live in the time in between.

### **THEME OF THE DAY A TIME FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE**

As we wait for Christ to return, we are not to be sedentary. The reason Christ has not yet returned is that there is still work to be done. And Christ carries out his good work through us, his Church. So, until Christ comes again and says, "Stop!" believers will be busy with faithful service. Christ has given every believer gifts and talents. And when Christ entrusts us with those gifts and talents, he calls us to use them all for his glory. In the time between Christ's first and second coming, we use everything the master has given us to live according to his will and to carry out his mission.

*Stand*

**M:** The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

**M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C:** **Amen.**

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are



they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -



ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -



ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -



ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.



Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

*Be seated*

## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 1:10–18

<sup>10</sup>Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom;  
listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

<sup>11</sup>“The multitude of your sacrifices—what are they to me?” says the LORD.  
“I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals;  
I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats.

<sup>12</sup>When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts?

<sup>13</sup>Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me.  
New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations—I cannot bear your worthless assemblies.

<sup>14</sup>Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being.

They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them.

<sup>15</sup>When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you;  
even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening.

Your hands are full of blood!

<sup>16</sup>Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong.

<sup>17</sup>Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead  
the case of the widow.

<sup>18</sup>“Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the LORD.

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

***PSALM 147A WITH HALLELUJAHS HONOR GOD page 797 in the gray Psalter***

## SECOND READING

ROMANS 12:1–8

<sup>1</sup>Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a  
living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. <sup>2</sup>Do not conform  
to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be  
able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly  
than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith  
God has distributed to each of you. <sup>4</sup>For just as each of us has one body with many members, and  
these members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so in Christ we, though many, form one body,  
and each member belongs to all the others. <sup>6</sup>We have different gifts, according to the grace given  
to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; <sup>7</sup>if it is  
serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; <sup>8</sup>if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if  
it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it  
cheerfully.

## GOSPEL

## MATTHEW 25:14–30

<sup>14</sup>“Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. <sup>15</sup>To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. <sup>16</sup>The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. <sup>17</sup>So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. <sup>18</sup>But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

<sup>19</sup>“After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

<sup>21</sup>“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>22</sup>“The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

<sup>23</sup>“His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

<sup>24</sup>“Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. <sup>25</sup>So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

<sup>26</sup>“His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? <sup>27</sup>Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

<sup>28</sup>“So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. <sup>29</sup>For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup>And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

M: This is the gospel of our Lord.



***HYMN OF THE DAY: O GOD, YOUR HAND THE HEAVENS MADE***

***751***

**SERMON**

**ISAIAH 1:10-18**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **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.**

*Stand*

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

### **BLESSING**

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.  
Live in harmony with one another.  
Serve the Lord with gladness.

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 + give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

*Be seated*