

November 23rd, 2025  
Last Sunday of the Church Year



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 Class at 11:00am.

**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.*

***SCRIPTURE / ANTICIPATION***

The Church has marked the passing of yet another Church Year, waiting for its Lord to return. How long will we have to wait and watch for Jesus to return? We do not know. Jesus said he would return soon. However, the definition of "soon" for the One who has no beginning or end will naturally differ from ours. Whenever Jesus returns, it will take us by surprise. So, how do believers avoid growing lethargic? How do we remain ready and watchful for Christ's return? Our Savior points us to his Scriptures.

The promises Jesus has made us this past year—promises that give us comfort and hope and purpose— were not merely spoken. Jesus ensured those promises were written down in Scripture. As we see in Scripture all the promises that Christ has fulfilled, there is discernable effect. The Spirit creates within us an eager anticipation regarding the Scriptural promises that are as-of-yet unfilled. While we cannot be certain when the day of fulfillment will come, we are completely confident of what that day will bring. No matter how many years we must mark, we watch with eager anticipation, and we pray, "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20).

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**CONFESSION**

***CW 155***

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*

God, our merciful Father, has forgiven all our sins. He sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Redeemer and Savior. Jesus paid the penalty for our guilt by his death on the cross and freed us from death by his resurrection from the grave. We have peace with God now and forever.

**Amen.**



## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, merciful Father, you have appointed your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of his return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for your own from the foundation of the world; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING

## HABAKKUK 1:1–3; 2:1–4

<sup>1</sup>The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.

<sup>2</sup>How long, Lord, must I call for help,  
but you do not listen?

Or cry out to you, “Violence!”  
but you do not save?

<sup>3</sup>Why do you make me look at injustice?  
Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

Destruction and violence are before me;  
there is strife, and conflict abounds.

<sup>1</sup>I will stand at my watch  
and station myself on the ramparts;  
I will look to see what he will say to me,  
and what answer I am to give to this complaint.

<sup>2</sup>Then the Lord replied:

“Write down the revelation  
and make it plain on tablets  
so that a herald may run with it.

<sup>3</sup>For the revelation awaits an appointed time;  
it speaks of the end  
and will not prove false.

Though it linger, wait for it;  
it will certainly come  
and will not delay.

<sup>4</sup>“See, the enemy is puffed up;  
his desires are not upright—  
but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness—

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 130F From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee



1 From depths of woe I cry to thee, Lord, hear me,  
2 Thy love and grace a - lone a - vail to blot out  
3 There - fore my hope is in the LORD and not in  
4 And though it tar - ry till the night and till the  
5 Though great our sins and sore our woes, his grace much



I im - plore thee. Bend down thy gra - cious  
my trans - gres - sion; the best and ho - liest  
mine own mer - it; it rests up - on his  
morn - ing wak - en, my heart shall nev - er  
more a - bound - eth; his help - ing love no



ear to me, my prayer let come be - fore thee.  
deeds must fail to break sin's dread op - pres - sion.  
faith - ful word to them of con - trite spir - it  
doubt his might nor count it - self for - sak - en.  
lim - it knows, our ut - most need it sound - eth.



If thou re - mem - b'rest each mis - deed, if each should  
Be - fore thee none can boast - ing stand, but all must  
that he is mer - ci - ful and just; this is my  
Do thus, O ye of Is - rael's seed, ye of the  
Our shep - herd good and true is he, who will at



have its right - ful meed, who may a - bide thy pres - ence?  
fear thy strict de - mand and live a - lone by mer - cy.  
com - fort and my trust. His help I wait with pa - tience.  
Spir - it born in - deed; wait for your God's ap - pear - ing.  
last his Is - rael free from all their sin and sor - row.

Text: Martin Luther; tr. Catherine Winkworth  
Tune: Martin Luther  
Text and tune: Public domain

## SECOND READING

## REVELATION 22:6–13

<sup>6</sup>The angel said to me, “These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place.”

<sup>7</sup>“Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.”

<sup>8</sup>I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. <sup>9</sup>But he said to me, “Don’t do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!”

<sup>10</sup>Then he told me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. <sup>11</sup>Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy.”

<sup>12</sup>“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL

## LUKE 12:35–40

<sup>35</sup>“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, <sup>36</sup>like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. <sup>37</sup>It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them. <sup>38</sup>It will be good for those servants whose master finds them ready, even if he comes in the middle of the night or toward daybreak. <sup>39</sup>But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>40</sup>You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

***HYMN: LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING***

**487**

**SERMON on LUKE 12:35–40**

**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.**

**Offering**

## **Prayer of the Church**

O Christ our King, you saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to your own purpose and grace. Grant that we may ever continue in the things we have learned and of which we have been assured, that we may receive on the day of your coming the crown of righteousness you have prepared for us and for all who await your glorious reappearing.

Help us to walk each day in the way of your commandments: to follow peace and holiness with all people; to endure in meekness for your name's sake such pain and adversity as we are called upon to bear; to be instant in prayer that we enter not into temptation; to behold the signs of the times, and to look for the new heavens and the new earth which the redeemed of the Lord will inherit in everlasting joy and gladness.

Hear the cry of the afflicted, O Lord, and give them your compassionate aid. Make straight paths for them, strengthen the weak, uphold the feeble, and heal the sick. Help them to receive the hard days in trust and confidence, bring forth the fruits of righteousness and joy.

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

Preserve us all in steadfast faith as we look for the day of your coming when you will be revealed as the blessed and only King of kings and Lord and lords; to you be honor and praise now and forever. Amen.

# THE SACRAMENT

## 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:

## ♪ SANCTUS ♪

**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 + 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 + 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.**

## **♪ AGNUS ♪**

**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: HERE, O MY LORD, I SEE YOU FACE TO FACE***

**660**

*Stand*

***HYMN: IN PEACE AND JOY I NOW DEPART***

**949**

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.**

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through 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 + give you peace.

**Amen.**

***HYMN: HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US***

**523**

### Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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