

January 18<sup>th</sup> 2026  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany



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) Please join us for coffee after the service.

***IDENTITY REVEALED***

“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” It is the season when you see Jesus begin his public ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. During Epiphany, you will come to understand that when the true identity of Jesus is revealed, you realize your own true identity as well.

***JESUS IS THE LAMB OF GOD***

For centuries Israel offered sacrifices to God for sin. Over and over, a substitute shed its blood to earn forgiveness. Then Jesus appeared, the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. He died as the substitute for sinful mankind. Connected to him by faith, you have new perspective and new motivation for living a Christian life.

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

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.**

**1016 Gloria (Brit) - EWING**

**1 To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth,**

**for God has shown his favor in Jesus' holy birth!**

**Almighty God and Father, our humble thanks we bring;**

**we worship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'nly King.**

**2 O Lamb of God exalted, you take all sin away;**

**extend to us your mercy and hear us as we pray.**

**With God the Holy Spirit, at God the Father's throne,**

**you reign, O Christ, forever, for you are Lord alone!**

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## THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 49:1–6

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you islands; hear this, you distant nations:

Before I was born the Lord called me; from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.

<sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;

he made me into a polished arrow  
and concealed me in his quiver.

<sup>3</sup>He said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."

<sup>4</sup>But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing at all.

Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand,  
and my reward is with my God."

<sup>5</sup>And now the Lord says—  
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant

to bring Jacob back to him  
and gather Israel to himself,  
for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord  
and my God has been my strength—

<sup>6</sup>he says:  
"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant  
to restore the tribes of Jacob  
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.

I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,  
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND READING****COLOSSIANS 2:6–15**

<sup>6</sup>So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

<sup>9</sup>For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, <sup>10</sup>and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, <sup>12</sup>having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

<sup>13</sup>When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup>having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia. Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Alleluia.

**GOSPEL****JOHN 1:29–41**

<sup>29</sup>The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”

<sup>32</sup>Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. <sup>33</sup>And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”

<sup>35</sup>The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup>When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

<sup>37</sup>When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup>Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

<sup>39</sup>“Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

<sup>40</sup>Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. <sup>41</sup>The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

***HYMN: ARISE AND SHINE IN SPLENDOR***

**375**

**SERMON**

**ISAIAH 49:1–6**

*Stand*

**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.**

**Offering** (*At this time our usher will bring our thank offering to the Lord.*)

## **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.**

*Be seated*

***HYMN: ACROSS THE LANDS***

***549***

*Stand*

Almighty God, grant to your Church the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes from above. Let nothing hinder your Word from being freely proclaimed to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, so that we may serve you in steadfast faith and confess your name as long as we live, 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 T give you peace.

**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## **875 What Threat of Harm Can Hinder Me**

**1 What threat of harm can hinder me  
within this fearsome fight?**

**What fear or foe could cause me flee  
to hide from evil's sight?**

**I cannot die; no sting of death  
can touch this life of mine.**

**I drowned and rose and breathe new breath,  
reborn through springs divine.**

**2 What enemy can pose a threat  
to shake my footing sure?**

**What cares need ever make me fret  
or doubt my home secure?**

**My Lord has conquered ev'ry strife;  
all adversaries fall.**

**I'm bound to Christ in death and life  
and rest in him through all.**

**3 What can the tomb attempt to take  
where I in safety dwell?**

**What claim can Satan try to make  
to pull me into hell?**

**My Savior marched thro' demon ranks,  
announcing their defeat.**

**I join the countless, singing thanks  
for victory complete!**

Text: Lisa M. Clark, b. 1982

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