

March 22, 2026  
Fifth Sunday in Lent



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. Join us for Sunday School at 10:45 and Adult Bible Class at 11:00 am.

### **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.*

### ***EXACTLY WHAT I NEED – GOD KNOWS EVEN WHEN I DON'T***

"I didn't know I needed that" is a common expression of surprise and realization. It suggests that something, whether it's a piece of information, a lesson learned, or a newfound understanding, has come to light and is now recognized as being essential or valuable, even if it wasn't previously apparent.

Lent is the season of the Church Year when I recognize my greatest needs. During Lent, I realize that in Christ all my greatest needs are met. God knows what I need even when I don't have any idea. The Holy Spirit makes it clear, week after week, that if I lack Christ, I have nothing. But if I have Christ, I have exactly what I need.

### ***LIFE***

I recognize the danger of death. I am tempted to wonder whether my life was worth it if I do not leave a legacy or live on in the memories of my loved ones after I die. When my soul separates from my body, will I also be eternally separated from God in hell? Jesus promises much better. He promises life. One day I will be reunited with my believing loved ones, both soul and body. I will live with Jesus forever in eternity. Jesus raised people from the dead to prove his power over death. That's exactly the power I need.

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.**

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.**

## **THE WORD**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation, that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive the forgiveness of sins, victory over the grave, and finally inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be Seated*

## **FIRST READING**

**2 KINGS 4:17–37**

<sup>17</sup>But the woman became pregnant, and the next year about that same time she gave birth to a son, just as Elisha had told her.

<sup>18</sup>The child grew, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers. <sup>19</sup>He said to his father, “My head! My head!”

His father told a servant, “Carry him to his mother.”<sup>20</sup> After the servant had lifted him up and carried him to his mother, the boy sat on her lap until noon, and then he died.<sup>21</sup> She went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, then shut the door and went out.

<sup>22</sup>She called her husband and said, “Please send me one of the servants and a donkey so I can go to the man of God quickly and return.”

<sup>23</sup>“Why go to him today?” he asked. “It’s not the New Moon or the Sabbath.”

“That’s all right,” she said.

<sup>24</sup>She saddled the donkey and said to her servant, “Lead on; don’t slow down for me unless I tell you.”<sup>25</sup> So she set out and came to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When he saw her in the distance, the man of God said to his servant Gehazi, “Look! There’s the Shunammite!”<sup>26</sup> Run to meet her and ask her, ‘Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your child all right?’ ”

“Everything is all right,” she said.

<sup>27</sup>When she reached the man of God at the mountain, she took hold of his feet. Gehazi came over to push her away, but the man of God said, “Leave her alone! She is in bitter distress, but the Lord has hidden it from me and has not told me why.”

<sup>28</sup>“Did I ask you for a son, my lord?” she said. “Didn’t I tell you, ‘Don’t raise my hopes?’”

<sup>29</sup>Elisha said to Gehazi, “Tuck your cloak into your belt, take my staff in your hand and run. Don’t greet anyone you meet, and if anyone greets you, do not answer. Lay my staff on the boy’s face.”

<sup>30</sup>But the child’s mother said, “As surely as the Lord lives and as you live, I will not leave you.” So he got up and followed her.

<sup>31</sup>Gehazi went on ahead and laid the staff on the boy’s face, but there was no sound or response. So Gehazi went back to meet Elisha and told him, “The boy has not awakened.”

<sup>32</sup>When Elisha reached the house, there was the boy lying dead on his couch.<sup>33</sup> He went in, shut the door on the two of them and prayed to the Lord.<sup>34</sup> Then he got on the bed and lay on the boy, mouth to mouth, eyes to eyes, hands to hands. As he stretched himself out on him, the boy’s body grew warm.<sup>35</sup> Elisha turned away and walked back and forth in the room and then got on the bed and stretched out on him once more. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes.

<sup>36</sup>Elisha summoned Gehazi and said, “Call the Shunammite.” And he did. When she came, he said, “Take your son.”<sup>37</sup> She came in, fell at his feet and bowed to the ground. Then she took her son and went out.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 130C By Grace Alone**



1 Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord, hear my  
 2 Your par - don is a gift of love, your grace a -  
 3 Though great our sins and sore our woes his grace much



voice of plead - ing; bend down your gra - cious ear, I  
 lone must save us; our works will not re - move our  
 more a - bound - eth; his help - ing love no lim - it



pray, your hum - ble ser - vant heed - ing. If you re -  
 guilt, the strict - est life would fail us. Let none in  
 knows, our ut - most need it sound - eth. Our kind and



mem - ber each mis - deed, and of each thought and word take  
 deeds or mer - its boast, but let us own the Ho - ly  
 faith - ful Shep - herd he, who will set all his peo - ple



heed, who can re - main be - fore you?  
 Ghost for he a - lone can change us:  
 free from all their sin and sor - row:



On - ly by grace, by grace a - lone.  
 On - ly by grace, by grace a - lone.  
 On - ly by grace, by grace a - lone.

Text: Martin Luther

Tune: David Ward

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## SECOND READING

ROMANS 8:11–19

<sup>11</sup>And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

<sup>14</sup>For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. <sup>15</sup>The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. <sup>17</sup>Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

<sup>18</sup>I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die.

## GOSPEL

## JOHN 11:17–27,38–45

<sup>17</sup>On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup>Now Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup>and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. <sup>20</sup>When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home.

<sup>21</sup>“Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup>But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

<sup>23</sup>Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

<sup>24</sup>Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

<sup>25</sup>Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; <sup>26</sup>and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

<sup>27</sup>“Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

<sup>38</sup>Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. <sup>39</sup>“Take away the stone,” he said.

“But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

<sup>40</sup>Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?”

<sup>41</sup>So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. <sup>42</sup>I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.”

<sup>43</sup>When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” <sup>44</sup>The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

<sup>45</sup>Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

***HYMN: JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN***

**890**

**SERMON on JOHN 11:17–27,38–45**

## **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**

*Stand*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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 brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree, would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

*Tune: LANCASHIRE*



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,  
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."  
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:  
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.  
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Text: Michael D. Schultz Tune: Henry T. Smart

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## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## 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.**

*Tune: ST. CRISPIN*



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a  
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can-celled



cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you  
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will



took our place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.  
nev - er cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Text: Michael D. Schultz Tune: George J. Elvey

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## DISTRIBUTION

***HYMN: THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST, OUR LORD***

**677**

*Stand*

### **951 Lord, Now You Let Your Servant**

**Lord, now you let your servant  
depart in peace according to your word.  
For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared before the face of all people,  
a light to lighten the Gentiles  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev.

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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 + give you peace.

**Amen.**

***HYMN: CHRIST, THE SURE AND STEADY ANCHOR***

**812**