

October 25, 2026
Twenty-second 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. Member Visit with Youth at 11:00am and Evangelism Brainstorm 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.*

What does God want from us? Is that secret knowledge only some people have? Does it require arcane scholarship to discover the answer? Does it require a journey in mind or body to find that information? The scribe juggles 613 commandments and wants Jesus to prioritize them. Cain claims not to know if he should be his brother's keeper. But John writes to the church and says, "The information you need to know is not new, nor is it complicated."

When it comes to pleasing God, we are not left in the dark. Serving God doesn't require us to search for hidden knowledge. We aren't sent to climb a mountain to discover the sound of one hand clapping or seek some mystical experience.

God takes the most important part of our existence, giving our Father glory and making him happy, and he grounds it in something that we don't have to search out but can simply reach out and touch. He says, "Look right next to you. That person, that relative, that congregational member, that stranger. There is where you go to find out what I want. What I want for you is to live a life that loves me above all things, by loving and serving your neighbor."

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

**Almighty God, merciful Father,
I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.
In what I have done and left undone,
I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.
I have not loved my brothers and sisters as myself.
For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.
I am truly sorry for my sins.
I repent of them.
I beg for your mercy, O Lord.**

Silence for meditation

Forgive us for the sake of Jesus Christ who suffered and died for us.

**Cleanse me from my sins.
Release me from my guilt.
Grant me your Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.**

The almighty God has been merciful to us and has sent his Son to die for all. For his sake, God forgives our sins and calls us from darkness to his marvelous light.

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 Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest



Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther. We



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on



us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer, re - ceive our prayer.

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on
earth. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,
with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry to God in the high - est and peace to his peo - ple on earth.
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God.

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer
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THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you have commanded us to love you above all things and our neighbors as ourselves. Grant us the Spirit to think and do what is pleasing in your sight, that our faith in you may never waver and our love for one another may not falter; 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

GENESIS 4:1–16

¹Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, “With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man.” ²Later she gave birth to his brother Abel.

Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. ³In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the Lord. ⁴And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The Lord looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

⁶Then the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? ⁷If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it.”

⁸Now Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let’s go out to the field.” While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him.

⁹Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is your brother Abel?”

“I don’t know,” he replied. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

¹⁰The Lord said, “What have you done? Listen! Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground. ¹¹Now you are under a curse and driven from the ground, which opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹²When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth.”

¹³Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is more than I can bear. ¹⁴Today you are driving me from the land, and I will be hidden from your presence; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me.”

¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Not so; anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.” Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him would kill him. ¹⁶So Cain went out from the Lord’s presence and lived in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

92B Make Music to the LORD Most High *Psalm 92B*



1 Make mu - sic to the LORD Most High, whose praise is our de -
 2 The god - less mind will nev - er know, be - cause its sense is
 3 But like the ce - dar and the palm, the right - eous stand se -



light: we sing your love as day be - gins, your
 void, that though the wick - ed spread like grass, they
 rene; they flour - ish in the house of God, their



faith - ful - ness by night. LORD, when we see all you have
 all shall be de - stroyed. For - ev - er, LORD, you are su -
 leaves are fresh and green. To fruit - ful age they still pro -



done, our songs of joy re - sound: your hand - i -
 preme, your throne re - mains on high, while reb - els
 claim the LORD who makes them new— our God, in



work, how vast it is, your coun - sels, how pro - found!
 meet e - ter - nal doom and e - vil - do - ers die.
 whom no wrong is found, my rock, for - ev - er true.

Text: Christopher Idle

Tune: English, adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams

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SECOND READING

2 JOHN 1–6

¹The elder,

To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth—²because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever:

³Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, will be with us in truth and love.

⁴It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. ⁵And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. ⁶And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 22:34–46

³⁴Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. ³⁵One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ³⁶“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

⁴¹While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, ⁴²“What do you think about the Messiah? Whose son is he?”

“The son of David,” they replied.

⁴³He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’? For he says,

⁴⁴“ ‘The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.” ’ ”

⁴⁵If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

SERMON on 2 JOHN 1-6**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 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

We give thanks to you, O God, through your dear Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be our Savior, our Redeemer, and the messenger of your grace. Through him you made all things; in him you are well pleased. He is the incarnate Word, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. To fulfill your promises, he stretched out his hands on the cross and released from eternal death all who believe in you.

As we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, we thank you that you have gathered us together to receive your Son's body and blood. Send us your Spirit, unite us as one, and strengthen our faith so that we may praise you in your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, we glorify and honor you, O God our Father, with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

♪ 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.**

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: I COME, O SAVIOR, TO YOUR TABLE

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Stand

950 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

**1 Lord, bid your servant go in peace, your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn this child so long foretold.**

**2 This is the Savior of the world, the Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst, the joy of Israel.**

**3 With saints of old, with saints to come, to you we lift our voice;
to Father, Son, and Spirit blest be honor, love, and praise.**

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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 you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, 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: THIS IS MY WILL

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