

January 3rd, 2021
2nd Sunday after Christmas



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) As a safety precaution there will be no after service coffee or refreshments. If you would like to socialize responsibly before and after the service, please use the fellowship hall. To allow for social distancing, please don't linger in front of the kitchen and bathroom.

Lutheran Worship

The Lutheran church is a liturgical church. Lutherans believe that the gospel is not only the good news that Jesus has saved sinners, but also the power God uses to create and strengthen faith in Jesus. Lutheran worship places the gospel in central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. Through the sermon, Lord's Supper, in specially selected Bible readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and confessions, the liturgy points to Jesus as the Savior of all.

As we adjust to live worship

We are taking many precautions to make our regular Sunday service as safe as possible. In keeping with our Governor's mandate, please wear a facemask while inside the building. Masks are available on the table by the bulletin announcements, if you forget your mask. If you socialize before or after the service please do so outside or in the fellowship hall. If you have any suggestions or concerns regarding worship or ministry please inform Pastor or our elder, Ken Leib.

HYMN: OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed
 3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,
 5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,



Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is
 When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the
 Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the
 An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -
 And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and



Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the
 Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior
 Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their
 min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our
 chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing



end - ing he, Of the things that are, that
 of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
 faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
 God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have deem - been, And that fu - ture years shall
 deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred
 spect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its
 si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert
 min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -



see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ry Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Stand

P: 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

P: 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.**

P: 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

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

GOD'S OWN SON MOST HOLY *sung in place of OH, TASTE AND SEE*



1 God's own Son most ho - ly Came a ser - vant low - ly,
2 Still he comes with - in us; Still his voice would win us
3 Thus, if we have known him And will not dis - own him
4 Those who then are loy - al Find a wel - come roy - al.



Came to live a - mong us, Came to suf - fer for us,
From the sins that hurt us, Would to truth con - vert us
Nor have loved him cold - ly But will trust him bold - ly,
Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, From our sins re - lease us.



Bore the cross to save us, Hope and free - dom gave us.
From our fool - ish er - rors Ere he comes in ter - rors.
He will then re - ceive us, Heal us, and for - give us.
Let us here con - fess you Till in heav'n we bless you.

Text: Johann Horn, c. 1490–1547, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: GOTTES SOHN IST KOMMEN (66 66 66) attr. Michael Weisse, c. 1480–1534.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all that we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be seated

FIRST LESSON

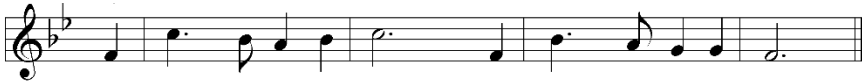
MICAH 5:2-5

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. "

Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be their peace.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 148



For - ev - er let us sing the good - ness of the Lord.

- M: Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens, praise him in the heights above.
- C: **Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his heavenly hosts.**

- M: Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars.
- C: **Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies.**

- M: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.
- C: **He set them in place for ever and ever; he gave a decree that will never pass away.**

- M: Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children.
- C: **Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.**

- M: He has raised up for his people a horn, the praise of all his saints, of Israel, the people close to his heart.
- C: **Praise the LORD.**

- C: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son And to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, Is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

REFRAIN

SECOND LESSON

HEBREWS 2:10-18

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers.

He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."

And again, "I will put my trust in him."

And again he says, "Here am I, and the children God has given me."

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death--that is, the devil--and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Verse of the Day: Psalm 98:3b

C: Alleluia. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

JOHN 7:40-43

On hearing his words, some of the people said, "Surely this man is the Prophet."

Others said, "He is the Christ."

Still others asked, "How can the Christ come from Galilee? Does not the Scripture say that the Christ will come from David's family and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" Thus the people were divided because of Jesus.

P: This is the gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Be seated

HYMN OF THE DAY: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y, And,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The
 4 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De -



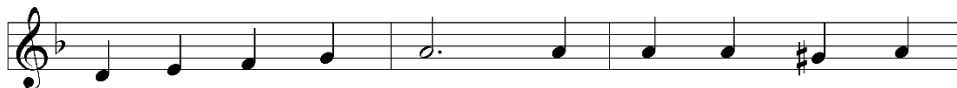
still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep And
 gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, The
 won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts To
 scend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin And



dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by.
 an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
 hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
 en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro -
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The



ev - er - last - ing light. The hopes and fears Of
 claim the ho - ly birth, And prais - es sing To
 in this world of sin Where meek souls will Re -
 great glad ti - dings tell; Oh, come to us, A -



all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 God the King And peace to all the earth.
 ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.
 bide with us, Our Lord Im - man - u - el!

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.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

Financial offerings are a regular, proportionate, and joyful response of love by members of a Christian congregation. Our offerings are given to further the work of God's kingdom here at Abiding Word and around the world through the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. If you are a guest, please do not feel obligated to support our ministry.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord God, Father in heaven, in sending your Son Jesus Christ you did in a marvelous manner commend your love to us and show forth your great kindness. We thank you for this unspeakable gift and for the promise that whoever believes in him shall receive the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

In your goodness bestow upon us the fullness of his grace, that we may perceive your glory and truth in him. Grant by your Holy Spirit that we may be guided by the light of Jesus Christ in all wisdom, counsel, and understanding, that our way may be cleansed, and that we may walk in love and obedience.

Bless your people, O God, and endow them with power and zeal. In all homes, give parents grace and wisdom to rear their children in the fear of the Lord. In all Christian schools, grant our teachers knowledge and direct them to the truth in Christ our Lord. In all hospitals, give strength and understanding to those who, with your blessing, help and heal.

Be with all who travel, with all in peril of body or soul, with all who are imprisoned, with all who face temptation, and grant to them a sure sense of your presence.

Special prayers

Dale Reif: diagnosed with Covid.

In these and in all other things in which we stand in need, give, O Father, your help and mercy. We pray in the name of your beloved Son Jesus Christ. 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.

P: 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: Amen.

BLESSING

P: 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: Amen.

HYMN: PRAISE TO YOU AND ADORATION



1 Praise to you and ad - o - ra - tion, Bless - ed Je - sus,
 2 Hold me ev - er in your keep - ing; Com - fort me in



Son of God, Who, to serve your own cre - a - tion,
 pain and strife. In my laugh - ter and my weep - ing



Came to share our flesh and blood. Guide me that I
 Be with me through - out my life. Give me great - er



nev - er may From your fold or pas - tures stray,
 love for you, And my faith and hope re - new



But with zeal, and joy, ex - ceed - ing
 In your birth, your life, and pas - sion,



Fol - low where your steps are lead - ing.
 In your death and res - ur - rec - tion.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1643–1703; tr. composite.

Tune: FREU DICH SEHR (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551.