

November 24, 2024  
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. Join us for Sunday School at 10:45 and Bible Study 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.*



## **BEAUTIFUL TRUTH**

**Steward the Truth as Identity in Christ**

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

**CONFESSION**

*CW 154*

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

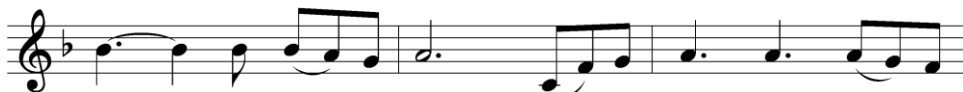
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## 527 I Will Sing of My Redeemer



1 I will sing of my Re - deem - er, and his  
2 I will tell the won - drous sto - ry, how, my  
3 I will praise my dear Re - deem - er, his tri -



won - drous love to me; on the cru - el cross he  
lost es - tate to save, in his bound - less love and  
um - phant pow'r I'll tell, how the vic - to - ry he



suf - fered, from the curse to set me free.  
mer - cy, he the ran - som free - ly gave.  
giv - eth o - ver sin and death and hell.

### *Refrain*



Sing, O sing of my Re - deem - er, with his



blood, he pur - chased me. On the cross he sealed my



par - don, paid the debt, and made me free.

Text: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876, abn.  
Tune: James McGranahan, 1860-1907  
Text and tune: Public domain

# THE WORD

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, you rule over all things in wisdom and kindness. Take away everything that may be harmful and give us whatever is good; 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

**ISAIAH 55:1-9**

*God invites all people to lasting satisfaction in him.*

“Come, all you who are thirsty,  
come to the waters;  
and you who have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without cost.

<sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread,  
and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

<sup>3</sup> Give ear and come to me;  
hear me, that your soul may live.  
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
my faithful love promised to David.

<sup>4</sup> See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander of the peoples.

<sup>5</sup> Surely you will summon nations you know not,  
and nations that do not know you will hasten to you,  
because of the Lord your God,  
the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has endowed you with splendor.”

<sup>6</sup> Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.

<sup>7</sup> Let the wicked forsake his way  
and the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him,  
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

<sup>8</sup> “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways,”  
declares the Lord.

<sup>9</sup> “As the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

***HYMN: THE GOD OF ABR’HAM PRAISE***

**613**

**SECOND READING**

**PHILIPPIANS 3:4-11**

*Paul found a new identity in Jesus Christ.*

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

<sup>7</sup> But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL

**MATTHEW 13:44-46**

*Nothing can compare to who we are in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>44</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

<sup>45</sup>“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. <sup>46</sup>When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

***HYMN: IN CHRIST ALONE***

**510**

**SERMON on PHILIPPIANS 3:4-11**

## **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**

Eternal and gracious Father, today we end another year of grace. Once again the Holy Spirit has nourished and strengthened our faith as we reviewed the words and works of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. We have rejoiced to hear that you kept the promises you made to your ancient people. We were encouraged as we remembered how you empowered your followers to proclaim the good news in their world.

**Work in us every day to believe the truths of your Word and apply them in our lives.**

We are aware that we live in dangerous times as Satan and his forces of evil assault your people again and again. Give us wisdom to discern teachings that subtly deny the Scriptures. Provide courage to stand against the attacks of godless opponents. Strengthen our resolve to confess the truth and then to speak the truth in love.

**Work in us every day to be watchful and cautious as we live in our world.**

Help us take to heart that your Son, our Lord Jesus, is coming again to judge the living and the dead. Since the day of his return is unknown to us, lead us to note the signs that signal the end of time. Spare us from fear as trouble and woe increase, and fill us with hope as we long for that great day.

**Work in us every day to be ready for the moment of his coming.**

Fill us with concern for family members and friends who are not taking seriously their need for Jesus and his forgiveness. Provide opportunities to reach out to them with patient persistence and to lovingly lead them to your Word and sacraments. Make us generous with our offerings so that others can go in our place to proclaim the good news.

**Work in us every day to witness to Christ and his love for sinners.**

Lead us to see our Savior's face in the faces of the poor and hungry, the lonely and forgotten, the oppressed and imprisoned, and move to support them whenever we can. Empower our faith to be lights in the world so that people may see our good works and glorify you and your Son.

**Work in us every day to imitate your love for the lost, the least, and the last.**

If you call us to glory before the final day comes, carry our souls to heaven where we will await the resurrection of our bodies. Comfort those who may grieve over losing us and point them to the day when they will join us at the marriage feast of the Lamb.

**Work in us every day so that we are ready whenever you call us home.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Fill us with hope and joy as we await your Son's return. Cause us to enjoy your earthly blessings in light of your eternal glories and to realize that heaven is really our home. Lead us to long for the splendor of Paradise where you will wipe away all tears from our eyes.

**Work in us every day as we listen for the sound of the final trumpet. Amen.**

# THE SACRAMENT

*Stand*

## 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 lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. 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

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**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.**

*Be seated*

## DISTRIBUTION

***HYMN: JESUS CHRIST, OUR BLESSED SAVIOR***

**659**

Stand

***HYMN: LORD, NOW YOU LET YOUR SERVANT***

**951**

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: HIS ROBES FOR MINE***

**568**

### Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

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