

December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024  
Fourth Sunday in Advent



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**  
513.677.9357      abidingword.com

Pastor -Troy Jacobs    937.503.3333    welstroyjacobs@yahoo.com

### **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. Please join us for 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.*

### ***A REAL CHRISTMAS WILL LIFT UP THE LOWLY***

By this time of the holiday season, people are often weighted down. They feel guilty about presents that are not perfect, or parties that did not go as planned, or year-end projects that did not get completed. To top it all off, now is when it dawns on people how little attention they have given to the spiritual preparation Advent invites.

If that is how we feel, perhaps the frenzy of December has done us a favor. We have been stretched to our limits. We have been made painfully aware of our shortcomings. We have been humbled. Perfect! For being made aware of our weakness does not disqualify us from God's care. It does the opposite. IT is what prepares us for the work he does best. He is a God who lifts up the lowly.

*Stand*

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

**Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

We light four Advent candles remembering Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary. He came to share our humanity.

**We remember Jesus whose name means Savior. He came to save his people from their sins.**

We hear his call to give him a place in our hearts.

**We light four Advent candles as a sign of our joy and hope.**

Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**Through your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

**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.**

## 561 Before the Throne of God Above



1 Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a  
 2 When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me  
 3 Be - hold him there, the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect,



strong and per - fect plea; a great High Priest whose name is  
 of the guilt with - in, up - ward I look and see him  
 spot - less right - eous - ness, the great un - change - a - ble I



Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is  
 there who made an end of all my sin. Be - cause the  
 AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace. At one with



grav - en on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his  
 sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed  
 him, I can - not die; my soul is pur - chased by his



heart. I know that while in heav'n he stands no tongue can  
 free; for God the just is sat - is - fied to look on  
 blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my



bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.  
 him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.  
 Sav - ior and my God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

Text: Charles Lees DeCoheny Bancroft, 1841-1931  
 Tune: 1841 Cooks, 3, 1950  
 Text: Public domain  
 Tune: © 1997 Sovereign Grace Praise, admin. IntegratedRights.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 714908

## **THE WORD**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins, and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Be Seated*

## **FIRST READING**

## **MICAH 5:2–5A**

<sup>2</sup>“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.”

<sup>3</sup>Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>And he will be our peace

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 146C Praise the LORD, Sing Hallelujah

*Psalm 146C*

- 1 Praise the LORD! Sing hallelujah! Come, our great Redeemer praise.  
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.  
Put no confidence in princes, nor on human help depend.  
They shall die, to dust returning; all their thoughts and plans shall end.
- 2 Happy are the ones professing Jacob's God to be their aid.  
They are blest whose hope of blessing on the LORD their God is stayed.  
Heav'n and earth the LORD created, seas and all that they contain.  
He delivers from oppression; righteousness he will maintain.
- 3 Food he daily gives the hungry, sets the mourning pris'ner free,  
raises those bowed down with anguish, makes the sightless eyes to see.  
God our Savior loves the righteous, and the stranger he befriends,  
helps the orphan and the widow, judgment on the wicked sends.
- 4 Praise the LORD! Sing hallelujah! Come, our great Redeemer praise.  
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.  
Over all God reigns forever; through all ages he is King.  
Unto him, your God, O Zion, joyful hallelujahs sing.

Text: Psalter, 188, alt.  
Text: Public domain

## SECOND READING

## HEBREWS 10:5–10

<sup>5</sup>Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,  
but a body you prepared for me;

<sup>6</sup>with burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you were not pleased.

<sup>7</sup>Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—  
I have come to do your will, my God.’ ”

<sup>8</sup>First he said, “Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them”—though they were offered in accordance with the law. <sup>9</sup>Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## GOSPEL

## LUKE 1:39–55

<sup>39</sup>At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,  
<sup>40</sup>where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard  
Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy  
Spirit. <sup>42</sup>In a loud voice she exclaimed: “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is  
the child you will bear! <sup>43</sup>But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should  
come to me? <sup>44</sup>As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my  
womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his  
promises to her!”

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said:

“My soul glorifies the Lord

<sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me—  
holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup>His mercy extends to those who fear him,  
from generation to generation.

<sup>51</sup>He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;

he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

<sup>52</sup>He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.

<sup>53</sup>He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.

<sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful

<sup>55</sup>to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*Be seated*

***HYMN: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL***

**327**

**SERMON on LUKE 1:39-55**

## **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**

Gracious Lord, you sent your Son into our world to destroy the power of Satan and restore the human race as your children and heirs. Work in us during this Advent season so that we may rejoice in the coming of our Savior and long for his coming again.

**Make us eager to receive the King who comes to save us.**

Use the preaching of your holy law to rid us of all delusions that we can gain your love with our own efforts. Move us to realize how hopeless we are because of sin and to feel sorrow for what we have done wrong.

**Lead us to be honest about our sinful status in your sight.**

Lift up our hearts to see the King who comes to save. Reveal to us his willingness to take on our human form and stand in our place. Show us the power he extends in his Word and sacraments to make us your children and keep us in faith. Thrill us with his promise to come and take us to our eternal home to live with you forever.

**Open our eyes to see and believe the wonders of the Savior's love.**

As we live with Christ and trust in him, move us to turn away from sin day after day with the strength your Holy Spirit provides. When we fall, forgive us and renew us to love and serve you and all people.

**Empower us and guide us to walk with Christ by faith.**

Protect us from the distractions that come at this time of the year. Even in gift-giving and celebrating, keep our hearts focused on Christ and his forgiving love.

**Give us joy at his coming at Christmas, his coming in the gospel, and his coming again.**

Move us to share with others the most important gift of this season, the truth about Jesus. Even in busy times lead us to pray for those whose joy is diminished because of sickness, pain, or loss. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Give us opportunities to provide help to those in need.

**May others see the love of Christ in our words and actions.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Loving Lord, work in us during this Advent season so that our joy may be genuine and may rest in the promises of the King who comes to save.

**Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

# THE SACRAMENT

## 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

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to 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.**

*Be seated*

## DISTRIBUTION

***HYMN: LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE***

**672**

Stand

***HYMN: IN PEACE AND JOY I NOW DEPART***

**949**

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: HARK THE GLAD SOUND! THE SAVIOR COMES***

**313**

### Acknowledgments

Setting One from Christian Worship

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.