

See Jesus in Faith

Abiding Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Covington, GA

... where families connect



ABIDING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



Prayer before worship

Lord God, in coming to hear your Word this morning, you have planted us like trees beside streams of water. Grant that we may ever delight in your Word and yield abundant fruit in our lives; through Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord. Amen.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

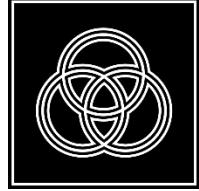
APRIL 30, 2017

Welcome to Worship! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. We're glad you are here and pray that God bless our time together in the Word. Right now, we are in the season of Easter, when we celebrate the victory over sin, death, and the devil that he won for us. Today, we are encouraged to hold on tightly to our Savior and the victory he brings in faith. Here are some things that may help you as we worship:

- **The Bulletin and Hymnal:** This bulletin you're holding has the entire Order of Service printed out for you. You'll need the hymnal only for the singing of the hymns listed in this bulletin. You can also scan the many resources for prayers, songs and other information in the hymnal as you take some time to meditate here in God's house. Specifically, today, the "Easter" section might be helpful, hymns 141-168.
- **Restrooms:** You'll find them down the hall behind you on your left.
- **Babies and other young ones:** Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them." It is important that our children get into the habit of being in church with the family. As a result, sometimes we get to hear their spontaneous "joyful noises." If, however, you feel that your child is growing overly disruptive, there is a room down the hall on your right where you can watch the service on our closed circuit TV. Volunteers will stay with your child if you would like to return to the sanctuary for worship.
- **The Ushers:** If you have any questions, please ask the men standing in the back of the room. They will be happy to assist you as much as possible.

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Our service is introduced by music from the piano and a welcome from the presiding minister (also known as the "liturgist").



INVOCATION

L(iturgist): In the name of the Father, and of the Son **†**, and of the Holy Spirit.

C(ongregation): **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN

141 – At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



CONFESSiON AND ABSOLUTiON

L: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us:

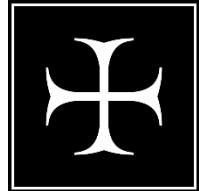
C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

L: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.

C: **Amen**

Invocation

The invocation affirms that our worship begins in the name of and directed toward the one, true, Triune God of the Bible.



Absolution

In the absolution, we receive God's promise from 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins he is faithful and just, and will purify us from all unrighteousness."



PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY - KYRIE

Kyrie

Kyrie is the Greek word for *Lord*. The expression, "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

L: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

L: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: **Amen.**

DIGNUS EST AGNUS - #265 THIS IS THE FEAST OF VICTORY

The refrain is sung ONLY after verses 1, 3, and 5.

Refrain

This is the feast of victory for our God,

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, Whose
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, And
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, And
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might Be to
 5 For the Lamb who was slain Has be -

Refrain

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu ia!

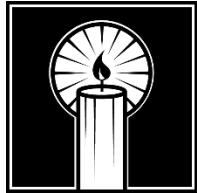
Final Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Dignus est Agnus

Dignus est Agnus is Latin for *Worthy is the Lamb*. We sing this song of praise in thankfulness for the victory Jesus won for us and the eternal life he gives us.



Prayer of the Day

Drawing from the themes in today's Gospel reading, the Prayer of the Day asks God for mercy, blessing, and aid in living a Christian life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

O risen Lord, you came to your disciples and took away their fears with your word of peace. Come to us also by your Word and sacrament, and banish our fears with the comforting assurance of your abiding presence; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON

Revelation 5:11-14

¹¹ Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. ¹² In a loud voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!"

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

The children are invited to come forward for a message directed especially toward them.



PSALM OF THE DAY:#30 (*read responsively*)

L: Sing to the LORD, you saints of his;

C: Praise his holy name.

L: For his anger lasts only a moment,

C: But his favor lasts a lifetime;

L: Weeping may remain for a night,

C: But rejoicing comes in the morning.

L: To you, O LORD, I called;

C: To the Lord I cried for mercy.

L: Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me;

C: O LORD, be my help.

L: You turned my wailing into dancing,

C: That my heart may sing to you and not be silent.

All: 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.



Scripture Readings

All three readings are thematically tied to the Gospel of the Day. We stand for the Gospel in order to honor our Lord.

SECOND LESSON

Acts 9:1-22

¹ Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

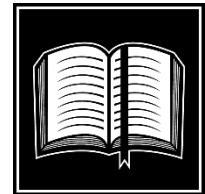
¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. ²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" ²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.



L: Alleluia. Alleluia. Christ is Risen!

C: He is risen indeed! Alleluia.

L: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

C: Alleluia!

GOSPEL OF THE DAY

JOHN 21:1-14

Please stand.

¹ Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Tiberias. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

⁵ He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?"

"No," they answered.

⁶ He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

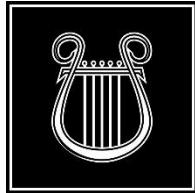
⁷ Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. ⁸ The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. ⁹ When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

¹⁰ Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."

¹¹ So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Verse of the Day

The Verse of the Day serves to highlight one of the main themes for this Sunday of the Church Year. It also serves to prepare our hearts to receive God's teaching in the Gospel of the Day. Traditionally, the verse is sung by a cantor or choir.



Hymns

St. Paul wrote, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly ... as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16). In singing hymns and songs of praise we join our voices with believers who have sung these hymns throughout the centuries and give glory to the God who has saved us by his one and only Son, Jesus.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

160 – THIS JOYFUL EASTERTIDE

SERMON

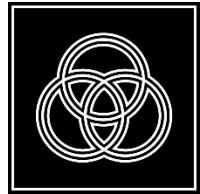
Revelation 5:11-14

Worthy Is the Lamb Who Was Slain!

- 1. To Give Us Life!**
- 2. To give us reverent joy!**

**WORTHY IS THE
LAMB
WHO WAS SLAIN**





**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.**

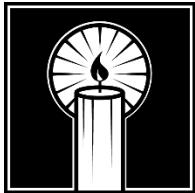
Please be seated.

Apostle's Creed

Confession of faith is our response to God's saving Word. This Trinitarian creed confesses the saving faith in Jesus that the Apostles taught.

OFFERING

*The members of Abiding Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and throughout the world. During the offering, please take a moment to fill in the **Friendship Register** that is being handed down your aisle. After everyone has signed it, you may place it on the floor beneath the chair at the end of the row.*



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*As the prayer is spoken, each time the minister says, "Lord, in your mercy..." the congregation is invited to respond, "**Hear our prayer.**"*

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer was taught by our Savior Jesus himself in response to the disciples' request, "Lord, teach us to pray" (see Luke 11:1-4).

The beauty of the Lord's prayer is how it succinctly prays for God's blessing and help in every aspect of life. Jesus taught this prayer more than once, it seems, as he also taught it during the Sermon on the Mount (see Matthew 6:5-15).

THE LORD'S PRAYER

spoken by the congregation

**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.******

THE LORD'S BLESSING

L: 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.**

CLOSING HYMN

153 – ALLELUIA! JESUS LIVES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Presiding Minister: Vicar Micah Plocher
Preacher: Pastor Benjamin Steenbock
Sound: Janette Scharf

ABIDING GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION

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Church Offices

Newton County: (770) 385-7691
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WELCOME AND THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPING WITH US

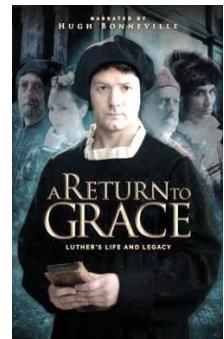
It is wonderful to have all of you here with us today to worship our amazing God. Please stick around after worship to meet and get to know better your brothers and sisters in Christ.

If the Spirit has worked through his Word today and moved you to want to find out more or to get involved – please speak to Pastor Scharf, Vicar Plocher, or any of the members after worship. You can also get a hold of Pastor Scharf using the contact information found above. If you have any questions or comments about anything that went on here or what was taught, again – please speak to Pastor Scharf. And come again next week as we join together to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. See the announcements and calendar following for other Bible Study, fellowship, and service opportunities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reformation 500: Movie Screening!!

As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation this year, we have a special opportunity. Mark your calendars for May 8th, 6:30pm, when we'll be hosting a special screening of the new film: A Return to Grace: Luther's Life and Legacy, at Conyers Carmike Crossroads 16 Theater. TOMORROW, May 1st is the deadline for ticket purchase. Buy your tickets online at: <https://www.tugg.com/events/a-return-to-grace-luther-s-life-and-legacy-zafk>, or link from the Abiding Grace website.



NEW BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS (BIC) – Sundays at 9:15am and Tuesdays at 7pm

Starting on Sunday, May 7th at 9:15am and Tuesday, May 9th at 7pm, we'll start a new run of our popular Bible Information Class. This "double round" will feature identical classes on Sunday and Tuesday of each week. This class is designed to cover the basics of what Christianity is all about and answer your questions about God's Word and all the different teachings out there. BIC serves as our new member class, but everyone is welcome, whether you are considering membership or not. Sign up now!! Childcare and all materials will be provided.

Graduate Recognition Sunday – May 28th, Both Services

Come join us to recognize all the special young men and women who are celebrating graduations this year. Since we are blessed to have people graduating from so many different schools at so many different times, we come together to recognize them all at once at this special service. We'll have a special prayer for them and have them come up to be recognized as we continue to pray for God to bless them in all their endeavors. If you'd like your graduate recognized in the bulletin please fill out a form on the information table and give it to Pastor or Vicar. Then join us on May 28th. ALL are welcome, whether members or guests or friends or relatives.

Abiding Grace Preschool Graduation – Friday May 12th, 6:30pm

Everyone is invited to celebrate the growth in God's Word that our preschool students have experienced throughout the year. This special service will give glory to God for these gifts. Come join us and meet the preschool families as well.

Hosting Volunteers:

This summer there will be volunteers coming for VBS and Soccer Camp, and 2 young men as SMA (Summer Ministry Assistant) students as well. If you'd be willing to open your house for a week for some high school (VBS) or college (Soccer Camp) volunteers, that would be greatly appreciated. Please sign up on the information table and/or talk to Pastor Scharf.

Born to Run 5K – Saturday, June 3rd:

Abiding Grace will have a tent and table at the Born to Run 5K on Saturday, June 3rd. If you would like to volunteer to man the tent, meet around 7am on June 3rd at 1139 Usher St. in Covington. If you can't volunteer your time, please consider donating some bottled water, fruit, or granola bars to hand out to the runners. Thanks for your efforts to reach out to our community!

South Atlantic District Youth Camps – Deadline TODAY: Our South Atlantic District is excited to offer two youth camps this summer: Camp SOUTH (here in Covington, July 24th-28th) for youth entering 4th through 9th grade; and The Amazing Race Teen Challenge (in Orlando, FL, June 27th-30th) for teens entering 9th through finishing 12th grade. These camps are a great opportunity for youth to grow in their faith and meet Christian friends from across the country. If you want to attend either of these camps, add your name to the sign-up sheets in the gathering space AND register online and pay the registration fee TODAY. Snap the QR codes below for the online registration forms, or see the links on the information packets in the gathering space.

Camp SOUTH



The Amazing Race



Voters' Meeting: A voters' meeting will be held May 21st at noon. We have four positions up for election with the following people nominated:

- Director of Trustees - Kris Heine
- Treasurer - Jason Pertoso; Brian Patrick
- Volunteer Coordinator - Mitch Dietzel
- Outreach - Mitch Dietzel; Joseph Lightsey

Please mark your calendar and come join us as we work together to spread his word.

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COMING EVENTS

ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sundays at 8am | Worship |
| Sundays at 9:15am | Sunday School and Adult Bible Study |
| Sundays at 9:15am | Bible Information Class (starting May 7 th) |
| Sundays at 10:30am | Worship |
| Sundays at 12:00 noon | Choir Practice |
| Mon. - Fri. 9-12am | Preschool (when Newton County Schools are in session) |
| Tuesdays at 7pm | Bible Information Class (starting May 9 th) |
| Wednesdays at 6:45pm | Confirmation Class (Middle School students) |
| Wednesdays at 7pm | Kids Club (0-10 year-olds) |
| Wednesdays at 7pm | Youth Group (high schoolers) |
| Wednesdays at 7pm | Adult Bible Study |
| Fridays at 9am | Building on the Rock (for developmentally disabled) |

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

| | |
|---|--|
| Sun. May 7 th , noon | Open Forum |
| Sun. May 7 th , noon | Ladies' meeting |
| Mon. May 8 th , 6:30pm | Movie Screening: A Return to Grace – Luther's Life and Legacy (at Carmike 16 in Conyers) |
| Fri. May 12 th , 6:30pm | Abiding Grace Preschool Graduation |
| Sat. May 13 th , 8am | Men's Bible Study Newton Campus |
| Sun. May 14 th , 8 & 10:30am | Mother's Day Service |
| Tues. May 16 th , 7:30pm | Vicar Call Day Service Fellowship and Streamed Service |
| Sun. May 21 st , noon | Voters Meeting |
| Sun. May 21 st , 6pm | Ladies Bible Study |
| Sun. May 28 th , 8 & 10:30am | Graduate Recognition Sunday |
| June 19-23 | Vacation Bible School |
| June 27-30 | Amazing Race Teen Challenge (Orlando) |
| July 10-14 | Soccer Camp 2017 |
| July 24-28 | Camp S.O.U.T.H. (4 th -8 th Graders in Covington) |