



# Take Up Your Cross and Follow Jesus

Abiding Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Covington, GA

*... where families connect*



# ABIDING GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH



## Prayer before worship

Lord God,  
thank you for  
bringing me  
here this  
morning to  
worship you  
and to be fed  
by your Word.  
Open my  
heart and my  
mind to hear  
your Word.  
Help me to  
remember  
that you  
suffered the  
torments of  
hell in my  
place and that  
one day, I will  
be free from  
all suffering  
together with  
you in heaven.  
Be my  
strength as I  
face suffering  
now.

In Jesus name,  
Amen.

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

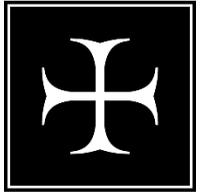
FEBRUARY 25, 2018

**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 Lent, a time when we see what Jesus did to earn our forgiveness, and come to grips with the fact that our failures caused that. This Sunday Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow him. He promised that anyone who wants to follow him would end up suffering. But the Lord promises that he blesses us in our sufferings and that he has suffered the torments of death and hell to give us eternal life. Today we'll learn to draw on Jesus' strength so that we can learn to rejoice in our sufferings. Here are some things that may help you:

- **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 "Lent" section might be helpful, hymns 98-129.
- **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.**

## GATHERING RITE: REMEMBER YOUR LOVE

*The opening hymns and songs of Christian worship mean to "gather" individual Christians into a worshiping assembly. What the traditional service does with hymns, canticles, and opening liturgy, this Lenten gathering rite does with continuous song and response.*

### ENTRANCE SONG

*The congregation sings the refrain and repeats it as indicated.*



Re - mem-ber your love and your faith-ful-ness, O Lord.



Re - mem-ber your peo-ple and have mer-cy on us, Lord.

*As watchmen who wait upon the daylight, wait for the Lord.*

*I trust in your kindness and redemption and your faithful word. **Refrain***

*Before all the mountains were begotten and the earth took shape,*

*Even then, O Lord, you were our refuge throughout every age. **Refrain***

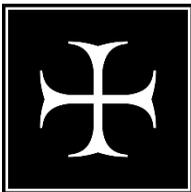
### CONFESSION OF SINS

---

L: As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's love, let us confess our sin and ask the Lord for pardon and strength:

#### Invocation

The invocation affirms that our worship begins in the name of and is 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."

**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:
1. Lord Jesus, obedient in the desert
  2. Christ Jesus, the promise of salvation
  3. Lord Jesus, the flood of living water



- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Lord, have mer - cy.   | Lord, have mer - cy.   |
| 2. Christ, have mer - cy. | Christ, have mer - cy. |
| 3. Lord, have mer - cy.   | Lord, have mer - cy.   |

## ABSOLUTION

---

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.**

## Refrain



Re - mem-ber your love and your faith-ful-ness, O Lord.



Re - mem-ber your peo-ple and have mer-cy on us, Lord.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

---

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

## THE WORD OF GOD

### FIRST LESSON

JOB 1:13-22

<sup>13</sup> One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, <sup>14</sup> a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, <sup>15</sup> and the Sabeans attacked and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

<sup>16</sup> While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the heavens and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

<sup>17</sup> While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and made off with them. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

<sup>18</sup> While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, <sup>19</sup> when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

<sup>20</sup> At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship <sup>21</sup> and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." <sup>22</sup> In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.



### Scripture Readings

God's Word has been at the center of Christian worship since the time of the Apostles (Acts 2:42). The readings are thematically tied to the Gospel of the Day.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

---

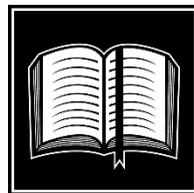
*The children are invited to come forward for a message directed especially toward them.*



## PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 22 (read responsively at 8:00am)

---

- L: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?  
**C: Why are you so far from saving me?**  
L: I am a worm and not a man,  
**C: scorned by men and despised by the people.**  
L: All who see me mock me:  
**C: they hurl insults, shaking their heads:**  
L: "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him."  
**C: Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."**  
L: My strength is dried up, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;  
**C: you lay me in the dust of death.**  
L: A band of evil men has encircled me,  
**C: they have pierced my hands and my feet.**  
L: They divide my garments among them  
**C: and cast lots for my clothing**  
L: But you, O LORD, be not far off;  
**C: O my Strength, come quickly to help me.**
- 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.**



*In letters of crimson, God wrote His love on a hillside so long, long ago.  
For you and for me Jesus died, and love's greatest story was told.*

*(refrain) I love you, I love you, That's what Calvary said,  
I love you, I love you, I love you, written in red.*

*Down through the ages, God wrote His love  
with the same hands that suffered and bled.  
Giving all he had to give, a message so easily read. (refrain)*

*Oh, precious is the flow that makes me white as snow.  
There is no other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus. (refrain)*

**SECOND LESSON***Romans 5:1-11*

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

<sup>9</sup> Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! <sup>10</sup> For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! <sup>11</sup> Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation

**Scripture Readings**

God's Word has been at the center of Christian worship since the time of the Apostles (Acts 2:42). The readings are thematically tied to the Gospel of the Day.



## VERSE OF THE DAY *(sung by the Choir 10:30am)*

---

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.  
(Philippians 2:8)

### 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.

## GOSPEL OF THE DAY

MARK 8:31-38

---

### ***Please stand.***

<sup>31</sup> He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He spoke plainly about this, and Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

<sup>33</sup> But when Jesus turned and looked at his disciples, he rebuked Peter. "Get behind me, Satan!" he said. "You do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

<sup>34</sup> Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. <sup>36</sup> What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? <sup>38</sup> If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

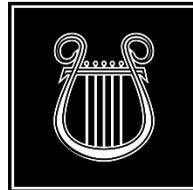


C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## HYMN OF THE DAY: 434

LORD, YOU I LOVE WITH ALL MY HEART

---



### Hymn of the Day

This hymn is chosen for its rich content and its connection to the Gospel of the Day.

## You're reconciled with God and that changes everything.

I. It means you rejoice even when you suffer now.

II. It means you will rejoice instead of suffering wrath on the Last Day

### CONFESSION OF FAITH

### 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.

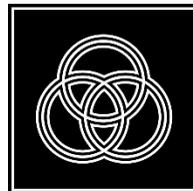
The third day he rose again from the dead.

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.



### Apostles' Creed

Public confession of faith is our response to God's saving Word. The Apostles' Creed proclaims and confesses the same saving faith in Jesus that the Apostles held and 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 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.**

### THE CLOSING HYMN 428

*WHY SHOULD CROSS AND TRIAL GRIEVE ME*

---

*Written in Red* by Gordon Jensen. Arranged by Camp Kirkland. © 1984 by Word Music  
Unless otherwise noted, all music printed in this bulletin comes from *Divine Service I* in *Christian Worship Supplement*  
©2008 by Northwestern Publishing House or *Christian Worship Hymnal* ©2003 by Northwestern Publishing House. These items are reprinted under OneLicense.net #A714318 and Christian Copyright Licensing # 11469598

## 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 Saatkamp or any of the members after worship. You can also get a hold of Pastor Scharf or the other ministry staff at Abiding Grace using the contact information below. If you have any questions or comments about anything that went on here or what was taught, again, please speak to Pastor Scharf or any of the members after worship. And come again next week as we join together to worship Jesus, revealed clearly as our Savior. See the announcements and calendar following for other Bible Study, fellowship, and service opportunities.*

## ABIDING GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION

---

### **Pastor Jonathan Scharf**

Cell: (404) 218-7568

Email: [pastor@abidinggrace.com](mailto:pastor@abidinggrace.com)

### **Pastor Benjamin Steenbock**

Cell: (770) 707-2144

Email: [pastorben@abidinggrace.com](mailto:pastorben@abidinggrace.com)

### **Vicar Steven Saatkamp**

Cell: (414) 828-9991

Email: [vicar@abidinggrace.com](mailto:vicar@abidinggrace.com)

### **Church Offices**

Newton County: (770) 385-7691

Henry County: (770) 707-214

### **WLC Choir Concert**

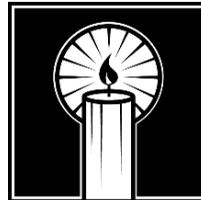
Come join us on *March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm* as the choir from Wisconsin Lutheran College will present their spring concert at Abiding Grace. The choir is committed to excellence in performance and to broadening audience awareness of and appreciation for choral music. Bring yourself and a friend!

### **Easter4Kids – March 24<sup>th</sup> 10am-2pm**

Easter for Kids is coming up Saturday March 24th. Join us for a fun day of games, crafts, snacks, and the good news that Jesus has risen! Please take some cards from the information table and let your friends and neighbors know about this great time for their children. Sign up online at [e4k.abidinggrace.com](http://e4k.abidinggrace.com)

### **Relay for Life Events**

The Rockdale Relay for Life is April 20<sup>th</sup> and the Newtown Relay is on April 27<sup>th</sup> If you are interested in participating or helping with our Abiding Grace booth, please talk with Cindy McCrae.



### **Prayer after worship**

Almighty God, grant that the Word which I have heard this day may through your grace be so planted in my heart that I may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

# COMING EVENTS



## ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

---

Sundays at 8:00am	Worship
Sundays at 9:15am	Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
Sundays at 10:30am	Worship
Sundays at 12:00 noon	Choir Practice
Sundays at 12:00 noon	Confirmation Class (middle schoolers)
Mon., Wed., Fri., 9-12am	Preschool (When Newton County Schools are in session)
<b>Wednesdays at 11:00am</b>	<b>Bible Information Class</b>
Wednesdays at 6:15pm	Soup Supper (Feb. 21-March 21)
<b>Wednesdays at 7:00pm</b>	<b>Midweek Lenten Devotion (Feb. 21-March 21)</b>
<b>Thursdays at 7:00pm</b>	<b>Bible Information Class</b>
Fridays at 9am	Building on the Rock (for developmentally disabled)

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

---

<b>March 10 7pm</b>	<b>Wisconsin Lutheran College Choir Concert</b>
<b>March 24 10am-2pm</b>	<b>Easter4Kids <a href="http://e4k.abidinggrace.com">e4k.abidinggrace.com</a></b>
March 29 7:30pm	Holy Thursday Worship
March 30 7:30pm	Good Friday Worship
March 31 7:30pm	Easter Vigil (at our Henry County Campus)
April 1 7am	Easter Sunrise Worship
April 1 10:30am	Easter Festival Worship Followed by Egg Hunt and Meal
April 20 & 27	Relay for Life Events
June 25-29	Vacation Bible School
June 26-29 (Sign up NOW)	International Youth Rally for High Schoolers
July 9-13	Soccer Camp
July 23-27 (Sign up NOW)	Camp S.O.U.T.H. (for 4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> graders)

## RECEIVE DAILY DEVOTIONS AND CHURCH UPDATES IN YOUR EMAIL

---

*If you're not already getting daily devotions and church updates in your email, go to the links below and sign up!*

- Daily Devotions: [http://eepurl.com/bA\\_6dL](http://eepurl.com/bA_6dL)
- Weekly Sermons: <http://eepurl.com/cy7DA>
- Invitations and Upcoming Events: <http://eepurl.com/dJ-EA>
- Weekly Bulletin Announcements: <http://eepurl.com/dSY19>