

REPENT AND BE RESCUED



Abiding Grace
Evangelical Lutheran Church
...where families connect

March 19th, 2017



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THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 19TH, 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. Today is the Third Sunday in Lent, a season of the church year when we focus more closely on Jesus' perfect obedience in life and in death. Today, God's Word calls us to turn away from sin and to Jesus, the one who saves us despite our unworthiness. In our service, we'll have the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper. Questions for preparation are available on page 156 in the front part of the hymnal. 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 "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. And 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.

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.

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.

*The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear?
The Lord is my life and my refuge, when I call God hears. Refrain*

*If you dwell, O Lord, upon our sinfulness, then who could stand?
But with you there is mercy and forgiveness and a guiding hand. Refrain*

*O Lord, bear the sound of my call and answer me.
My heart cries out for your presence; it is you I seek. Refrain*

INVOCATION

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

C(ongregation): Amen.

L: 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

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:

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, Lord have mercy...
2. Christ Jesus, the promise of salvation, Christ have mercy...
3. Lord Jesus, the flood of living water, Lord have mercy...

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.**

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: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with favor on your humble servants and stretch out the right hand of your power to defend us against all our enemies; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

Exodus 3:1-15

¹ Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the desert and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³ So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

⁴ When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

⁵ “Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸ So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹ And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰ So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

¹¹ But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

¹² And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

¹³ Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

¹⁴ God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ “This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.

THE CHILDREN’S SERMON

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



THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 85

*The liturgist and **congregation** speak the psalm responsively*

L: You showed favor to your land, O LORD:

C: **You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

L: You forgave the iniquity of your people

C: **And covered all their sins.**

L: Show us your unfailing love, O LORD,

C: **And grant us your salvation.**

L: I will listen to what God the LORD will say;

C: **He promises peace to his people, his saints.**

L: Surely his salvation is near those who fear him,

C: **That his glory may dwell in our land.**

L: Love and faithfulness meet together;

C: **Righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

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.**

THE SECOND LESSON

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹ For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ² They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³ They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴ and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷ Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.” ⁸ We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹ We should not test the Lord, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰ And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

¹¹ These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come. ¹² So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! ¹³ No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.

THE VERSE OF THE DAY

L: If you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! (1 Corinthians 10:12)

THE GOSPEL OF THE DAY

Luke 13:1-9

¹ Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ² Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it, but did not find any. ⁷ So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

⁸ “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: # 302 *Lord, to You I Make Confession*

THE SERMON:

Exodus 3:1-15

This Is God's Name, a Reminder...

- 1) ...That He Brought Us out of Our Misery.**
- 2) ...That He Will Bring Us to a Good and Perfect Land.**
- 3) ...That He Brings Us to Worship His True Name.**

THE 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 fully 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.

THE OFFERING:

*The members of Abiding Grace Lutheran Congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and throughout the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry. 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.*

THE 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: *(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 SACRAMENT

Abiding Grace practices member communion. Please contact Pastor Scharf to discuss this practice and God's Word and the love that motivates it.

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

L: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He made his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

C: **Amen.**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Sanctus*)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er,
God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -
ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est. Bless -
ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san -
na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est. (8)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

L: 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."

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (*AGNUS DEI*)

C O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O
Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. O
Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace. A -
men. A - men.

THE DISTRIBUTION: Please follow the directions of the ushers. During the distribution, in the 10:30 service, we will sing *Hymn 315, Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face*. Following the distribution, the congregation joins to sing the *Nunc Dimittis*.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (The Song of Simeon)

G In peace, Lord, in peace you let your ser-vant now de -
part ac - cord-ing to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal -
va - tion, which you have pre-pared for ev - 'ry peo-ple, a
light to light-en the Gen - tiles and the glo-ry of your peo-ple
Is - ra - el. In peace, in peace.

THE LORD'S BLESSING *(Spoken by the Pastor)*

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: #102 *Enslaved by Sin and Bound in Chains*

Welcome!

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 on page 2. 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 following for other Bible Study, fellowship, and service opportunities.

Announcements

Giving It Up – Lenten Midweek Meditations: Have you ever given something up for Lent? It’s a tradition that many people have – sacrificing something to remind us of Jesus’ sacrifice for us. However, sometimes our sacrifices miss the point of Lent. They can serve to direct our attention toward ourselves instead of Jesus. On Wednesdays during the season of Lent (**March 8th-April 5th**), we will have opportunities to refocus ourselves mid-week on what Jesus gave up for us as he walked the road to the cross. We will see that nothing we do can add value to his sacrifice, but that his love for us moves us to give up certain things out of thanks to him – not just for Lent, but for life. Join us at **6:15pm** each Wednesday in Lent for a **Soup Supper** (and sign up on the sheet in the gathering space if you can help bring something!). Then, at **7:00pm**, hear what God’s Word says about “Giving It Up.”

South Atlantic District Youth Camps: 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 by April 30th**. 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



National Conference on Worship Music and the Arts: Anyone in the congregation who is interested in music and worship and would like training in how better to use their gifts for God's glory is invited to this Conference. Held every 3 years, it is the largest Lutheran worship conference in the world. This year, our congregation will be subsidizing some of the cost (depending on how many take advantage of it) to help everyone who would like to participate. The dates are June 13-16, 2017 at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. Please let pastor know if you are interested so that travel arrangements can be planned. More information is available on the poster on the bulletin board in the fellowship area and at www.wels.net/worshipconference.

Easter for Kids – Saturday, April 8th, 2017 10am – 2pm:

Come, join us for Easter for Kids 2017 and your children will have a great time being reminded of the real meaning of Easter through games and crafts, songs, the Bible Story, and all sorts of fun. Hear how Jesus died and rose again. Please speak to any of our members to find out more about this special event. Give us a call at 770-385-7691 if you have any questions or to register your child, or go online to e4k.abidinggrace.com. If you'd like to volunteer to make Easter for Kids a great event, sign up on the sheet in the gathering space!

Hosting Volunteers: This summer there will be volunteers coming for VBS and Soccer Camp, and hopefully 2 young men as SMA 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.

Grow closer to your Savior – Bible Information Class

As you remember today how important your Savior is to you, commit to growing in your relationship with Him. One great way to do that is through Bible Information Class. It's a commitment of 12 sessions, about an hour each. Each week, we'll go through one key teaching of Scripture and let God's Word answer our questions and help us understand him more. This also serves as our new member class. We'll provide everything you need, even childcare, if you sign up in advance. This round of BIC meets on **Thursdays at 7pm**. Sign up on the sheet in the gathering area and come grow with us!

Ladies Bible Study TONIGHT:

Ladies, please join us for Ladies Bible Study tonight, 3/19, at 6:00pm. This week we are discussing Chapter 3, "The Burden of Self-Reliance: I'll Do It My Way," from our book *Traveling Light* by Max Lucado. You can jump into this study at any point, so please join us even if you haven't been able to make it to our other meetings. We hope to see you there!

Easter Celebration Sign-up:

Easter is the most joyful day of the year, so we're celebrating! This will be a great way to spread the message of just what it means for us that Jesus rose from the dead. If you want to help us celebrate by setting up, bringing food, cleaning up, filling eggs for the kids, or anything else, please put your name on the sign-up sheets in the gathering area. Come celebrate our risen Savior!

Coming Events at Abiding Grace:

Ongoing Weekly Activities

Sundays at 8am	Worship
Sundays at 9:15am	Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
Sundays at 10:30am	Worship
Sundays at 12:00 noon	Choir Practice
Mon. - Fri. 9-12am	Preschool (when Newton County Schools are in session)
Wednesdays at 6:15pm	Soup Supper
Wednesdays at 6:30pm	Confirmation Class (Middle School students)
Wednesdays at 7pm	Lenten Midweek Meditations
Thursdays at 7pm	Bible Information Class
Fridays at 9am	Building on the Rock (for developmentally disabled)

Upcoming Special Events

Sun. Mar. 19th, 6pm	Ladies' Bible Study
Sat. April 8 th , 10am-2pm	Easter4Kids
Thur. Apr. 13 th , 7:30pm	Holy Thursday Service
Fri. Apr. 14 th , 7:30pm	Good Friday Service
Sat. Apr. 15 th , 7pm	Easter Vigil Service (at Henry County Campus)
Sun. April, 16 th , 7am	Easter Sunrise Service (outdoor weather permitting)
Sun. April 16 th , 10:30am	Easter Worship (and Easter Egg Hunt)
Sat. April 29 th	Ladies' Rally at Mighty Fortress in Hiram, GA
June 13-16	National Worship Conference (in Kenosha, WI)
June 19-23	Vacation Bible School
June 27-30	Amazing Race Teen Challenge (Orlando)
July 10-14	Soccer Camp
July 24-28	Camp S.O.U.T.H. (4 th -8 th Graders in Covington)

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"Gathering Rite: Remember Your Love" by Gary Daigle ©1996 by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Hi Parents! Do you want some time for Spring Cleaning, or just a few hours to relax? Do you want your children to learn the real meaning of Easter?

Let us help!



**Saturday, April 15th
from 10am until 2pm**

Easter for Kids is a one day program for ages 3 to 10. Parents, while you have a few hours to do whatever you'd like, your children will have fun learning the real meaning of Easter. **There is no cost!**

**Call 770-385-7691 or go to e4k.abidinggrace.com
to register or for more information.**