

SEE JESUS' GLORY IN HIS SUFFERING



Abiding Grace
Evangelical Lutheran Church
...where families connect

April 2nd, 2017



Newton County

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FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

APRIL 2ND, 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 leads us to see God's glory not primarily in power or wealth or wonders, but in the suffering of Jesus on the cross. It's there that God shows his mercy, his commitment, and his greatest love for us, and it's there that he gives us the eternal glory of heaven. 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 of hymns may give you some great food for thought, 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.

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 earth took shape,

Even then, O Lord, you were our refuge throughout ev'ry age. **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:

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; 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

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

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



THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 43:1-7

1 But now, this is what the Lord says—
 he who created you, Jacob,
 he who formed you, Israel:
 “Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have summoned you by name; you are mine.
2 When you pass through the waters,
 I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
 they will not sweep over you.
 When you walk through the fire,
 you will not be burned;
 the flames will not set you ablaze.
3 For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior;

I give Egypt for your ransom,
 Cush and Seba in your stead.
 4 Since you are precious and honored in my sight,
 and because I love you,
 I will give men in exchange for you,
 and people in exchange for your life.
 5 Do not be afraid, for I am with you;
 I will bring your children from the east
 and gather you from the west.
 6 I will say to the north, ‘Give them up!’
 and to the south, ‘Do not hold them back.’
 Bring my sons from afar
 and my daughters from the ends of the earth—
 7 everyone who is called by my name,
 whom I created for my glory,
 whom I formed and made.”

THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 85

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

L: I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
C: Where does my help come from?
 L: My help comes from the Lord,
C: The Maker of heaven and earth.
 L: He will not let your foot slip—
C: He who watches over you will not slumber;
 L: Indeed, he who watches over Israel
C: Will neither slumber nor sleep.
 L: The Lord watches over you—
C: The Lord is your shade at your right hand;
 L: The sun will not harm you by day,
C: Nor the moon by night.
 L: The Lord will keep you from all harm—
C: He will watch over your life;
 L: The Lord will watch over your coming and going
C: Both now and forevermore.
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

Hebrews 5:7-9

⁷ During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸ Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered ⁹and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

THE VERSE OF THE DAY

L: *The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*
(Mark 10:45 cf. NIV)

THE GOSPEL OF THE DAY

John 12:20-33

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the feast. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: #100 *A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth*

We Would Like to See Jesus

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 Church 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.*

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.

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 741, Take and Eat**, printed on page 12. Following the distribution, the congregation joins to sing the Nunc Dimittis.*

Refrain

Take and eat, take and eat, this is my bod - y
 giv - en up for you. Take and drink, take and drink,
 this is my blood giv - en up for you. *(.) Last time*

Verses

1 I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
 2 I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;
 3 I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;
 4 I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid,
 5 I am the Light that came in - to the world;
 6 I am the First and Last, the liv - ing One;

I am the seed that died to be re - born;
 I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;
 I am the gate that guards you night and day.
 A chos - en stone and pre - cious in his eyes.
 I am the Light that dark - ness can - not hide;
 I am the Lord who died that you might live;

I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;
 I am the life that rais - es up the dead;
 You are my flock; you know the Shep - herd's voice;
 You are God's dwell - ing place; on me you rest
 I am the Morn - ing Star that nev - er sets.
 I am the Bride - groom, this my wed - ding song.

To Refrain

I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
 I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
 You are my own: your ran - som is my blood.
 Like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.
 Lift up your face; in you my light will shine.
 You are my bride; come to the mar - riage feast.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS (The Song of Simeon)

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "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-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 first staff begins with a 'G' in a box. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, with some rests.

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 Liturgist)*

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: *Now the Green Blade Rises*

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love Whom we had slain,
Thinking that He'd never wake to life again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Up He sprang at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Up from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are saddened, grieving or in pain,
By Your touch You call us back to life again;
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

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 have been refocusing ourselves mid-week on what Jesus gave up for us as he walked the road to the cross. We've seen 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** this Wednesday, April 5th for our final **Soup Supper** (and sign up on the sheet in the gathering space if you can help bring something!). Then, at **7:00pm**, hear our final installment as God's Word tells us about "Giving Up Life."

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. Sign up on the information table if you want to help with this great event!

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.

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!

Cheerios Challenge! – Saturday, April 15th, 7am

Come on out and help us get to know our community and let them know about us. We'll be sponsoring a table at the Cheerios Challenge Race Day (15K, 10K, 5K, & 1-mile runs). This is a big event for our community and we've been blessed to be a part of it for 13 years. Come out and help greet and invite our neighbors. Sign up if you'll be there and/or if you can provide something for us to give to the runners (snacks, fruit, cookies, Gatorade mix, etc.)

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

Sat. April 8 th , 10am-2pm	Easter4Kids
Sun. April 9 th , noon	Ladies Meeting
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, 16th, 7am	Easter Sunrise Service (outdoor weather permitting)
Sun. April 16 th , 10:30am	Easter Worship (and Easter Egg Hunt)
Sun. April 23rd, 6pm	Ladies Bibles Study
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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