

# Christ Conquers Satan: Whose Side are You On?

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.  
Drive out all  
fear from my  
heart so that I  
can joyfully  
serve you  
every day.

In Jesus name,  
Amen.

## THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JUNE 10, 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. Today we will see how the devil tries to use our fear to make us obey him. But we have no reason to fear and every reason to stay on Christ's side. 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 "Commitment" section might be helpful, hymns 452-479.
- **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

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

## WELCOME

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

C(ongregation): **Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN 596

*LET ME BE YOURS FOREVER*

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## CONFESSION OF SINS

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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.

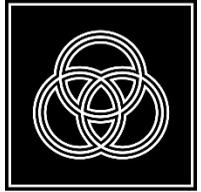
C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in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

## ABSOLUTION

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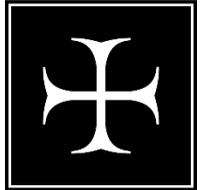
L: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**



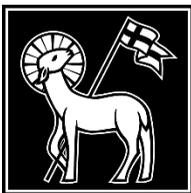
### Invocation

The invocation reminds worshippers of their baptism in the name of 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

### GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

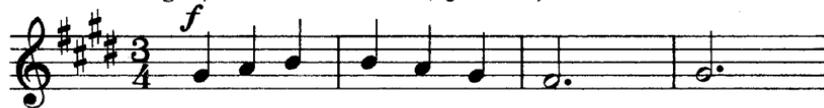
Luke 2:14

For our Gloria today we use a new melody for these ancient words. After the cantor introduces the refrain once, please sing along with the Refrain each time it occurs.

David Haas

REFRAIN:

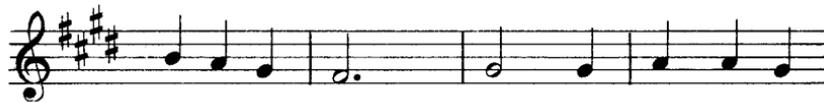
*Bright, with excitement!* (♩ = 176)



Glo-ry to God in the high - est,



Sing! Glo-ry to God! \_\_\_\_\_ Glo-ry to



God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo-ple on earth! \_\_\_\_\_

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
We worship you, we give you thanks,  
We praise you for your glory! Refrain**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
Have mercy on us; You are seated at the right hand of the Father;  
Receive our prayer! Refrain**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord, the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father! Refrain**

### Gloria in Excelsis

This song with roots in the 4<sup>th</sup> century proclaims the great things God has done to rescue us from sin, death, and the devil.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

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L: Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, your Son Jesus triumphed over the prince of demons and freed us from bondage to sin. Help us to stand firm against every assault of Satan, and enable us always to do your will; through 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

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

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



PSALM 127:1A

### VERSE OF THE DAY

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L: Alleluia. Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain.

C: Alleluia!

### GOSPEL OF THE DAY

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MARK 3:20-35

*Please Stand*

<sup>20</sup> Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. <sup>21</sup> When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind."

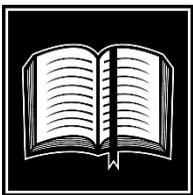
<sup>22</sup> And the teachers of the law who came down from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul! By the prince of demons he is driving out demons."

<sup>23</sup> So Jesus called them over to him and began to speak to them in parables: "How can Satan drive out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand.



### 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.



## Scripture Readings

All the readings are thematically tied to the Gospel of the Day. The Children's Sermon is designed to make simple the key thought of today's readings.

<sup>26</sup> And if Satan opposes himself and is divided, he cannot stand; his end has come. <sup>27</sup> In fact, no one can enter a strong man's house without first tying him up. Then he can plunder the strong man's house. <sup>28</sup> Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, <sup>29</sup> but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin."

<sup>30</sup> He said this because they were saying, "He has an impure spirit."

<sup>31</sup> Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. <sup>32</sup> A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

<sup>33</sup> "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

<sup>34</sup> Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! <sup>35</sup> Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

## HYMN 455

## RISE! TO ARMS! WITH PRAYER EMPLOY YOU

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## SERMON

## GENESIS 3:8-15

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# Don't Be Afraid

<sup>8</sup> Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

<sup>10</sup> He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

<sup>11</sup> And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

<sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"  
The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

<sup>14</sup> So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,  
"Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly  
and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> And I will put enmity between you  
and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and  
you will strike his heel."

## 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.**

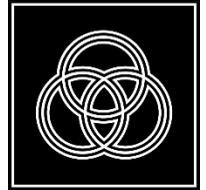
**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**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.**

## 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.*

**OFFERTORY NOTE:** *"For the offertory today, we'll be listening to the soloist from the wedding of Wayne and Barb Lass 50 years ago, singing the Lord's Prayer."*



## 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.



### **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).

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

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*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**

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*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**

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**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.**

<sup>1</sup> And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. <sup>2</sup> He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. <sup>3</sup> He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time.

<sup>4</sup> I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> (The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

1. From what you've underlined, what's it like being on Christ's side? From what you've circled, what's it like being on Satan's?
2. What are some Bible stories in which Jesus' humility or kindness or gentleness is on display? Why do you think we get this different picture of Jesus in Revelation?
3. The devil is pictured as a dragon. Why? Why is this thought so dangerous? "I don't see the devil at work in my life so he must not be working."
4. Agree/Disagree: Those who stayed faithful to Christ to the point of death deserve some recognition. What does happen to those who lose everything in this world for the sake of Christ?
5. What enables believers to be priests and to serve God? Why is it a blessing to be able to serve God?
6. "Jesus wins" could be the theme of Revelation. What are natural results of keeping that on our minds when...
  - The devil tells us we can't be forgiven of what we've done
  - We want to give in to a strong desire of our sinful nature
  - The unbelieving world laughs at us for believing that God's Word is actually true.



### **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.

## **CLOSING PRAYER (SUNG BY THE CONGREGATION)**

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**The time has come, O Lord, for us to leave this place;  
Guide us and protect us and lead us in thy grace.  
Wherever life may take us as we go our separate ways,  
Help us share with others the things we've shared today.  
May the peace of God the Father, and the love of Christ, His Son,  
May the blessings of the Spirit fill us from within;  
God bless us and return us to this fellowship once again.**

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## **ABIDING GRACE CONTACT INFORMATION**

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### **Pastor Jonathan Scharf**

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Email: pastor@abidinggrace.com

### **Pastor Benjamin Steenbock**

Cell: (770) 707-2144  
Email: pastorben@abidinggrace.com

### **Vicar Steven Saatkamp**

Cell: (414) 828-9991  
Email: vicar@abidinggrace.com

### **Church Offices**

Newton County: (770) 385-7691  
Henry County: (770) 707-2144

## **WELCOME AND THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US**

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*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 above. 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 risen Savior. See the announcements and calendar following for other Bible Study, fellowship, and service opportunities.*

### **Pies for Pop – Father’s Day – June 17<sup>th</sup>**

Sign up on the information table to bring some pies next Sunday to celebrate all the dads in the congregation!

### **Voters Meeting and Nominations for Abiding Grace Church Council**

Mark your calendars for our June Voters Meeting, **next Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:15**. Come and give your input on our elections for church council and the proposal to apply for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Site, among other things. For your prayers, here are the nominees who have agreed to run: **President:** Peter Sahlstrom, **Secretary:** Richard Terry , **Director of Member Ministry:** Greg Porter, **Director of Elders:** Joe Herman.

### **A Wedding Invitation!**

Stephanie Dean and Stephen Johnson would like to invite our Abiding Grace church family to their wedding service on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Come and celebrate their commitment to each other and the blessing of Christian marriage.

### **Canvassing – Come Help Us Invite our Neighbors – WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30**

Earlier this year, we changed our canvassing time to help allow more people to come. That didn't work 😊 so we are switching back. We'll canvass every Wednesday this summer at 5:30pm. Come on out and help get the Word out about the Word we preach and teach here! If that time is too early for you, call Pastor Scharf and we'll make a later time work for you to join us!

### **WELS Labor Day Retreat**

Looking for an awesome way to spend your Labor Day weekend? Join people from all over our South Atlantic district for camping, hiking, fishing, canoeing and much more this Labor Day weekend. This year's retreat will be held at Florida Bible Camp in High Springs, FL. For all the info go to [www.welslabordayretreat.coffeecup.com](http://www.welslabordayretreat.coffeecup.com).

### **Abiding Grace Lutheran Preschool – 2, 3 & 4 Year olds!!**

#### **Now Registering 2018-2019 School Year!**

Talk to Tina Jenkins, Paulina Lightsey, or Donna Burks if you have any questions about our Abiding Grace Preschool. Registration materials are on the preschool table in the back. Sign your 2- 4 year-old child up now for a loving, Christ-centered education.

### **New Wednesday Bible Study Series: Idols We Never Knew We Had**

A wood-carved animal figurine. A chiseled stone statue. A golden goddess. Do you have an idol-worship area set up in your home? We would say "Definitely not! I don't bow down to idols!" But sometimes we do worship idols and make them our gods, not even realizing they are there. This study brings to light these idols that hide themselves so easily in our homes and hearts, and through God's guidance and power we'll get help to avoid worshiping these false gods. Join us **this Wednesday at 7pm** as we discuss the idol of love.

# COMING EVENTS



## ONGOING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

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Sundays at 8am	Worship and Bible Study
Sundays at 10:30am	Worship and Bible Study
Sundays at 12:00 noon	Choir Practice
<b>Sundays at 12:00 noon</b>	<b>Bible Information Class</b>
Mon. Wed. Fri. 9-12am	Preschool (when Newton County Schools are in session)
<b>Tuesdays at 7pm</b>	<b>Bible Information Class</b>
<b>Wednesdays at 5:30pm</b>	<b>Canvassing (help invite our neighbors!)</b>
Wednesdays at 7pm	Kids Club (0-10 year olds)
Wednesdays at 7pm	Youth Group (High Schoolers and Middle Schoolers)
Wednesdays at 7pm	Adult Bible Study
Fridays at 9am	Building on the Rock (for developmentally disabled)

## UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

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June 10 <sup>th</sup> , 9:15am	Council Meeting
<b>June 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:15am</b>	<b>Congregational Voters Meeting</b>
June 17 <sup>th</sup> 8 & 10:30am	Father's Day Worship with "Pies for Pop"
June 24 <sup>th</sup> , 9:15am	Elders Meeting
<b>June 25-29</b>	<b>Vacation Bible School: <i>Splash Canyon</i> (sign up now!!)</b> <b><u><a href="http://vbs.abidinggrace.com">vbs.abidinggrace.com</a></u></b>
June 26-29	"Never Alone" teen camp (Bowling Green)
July 8 <sup>th</sup> , 9:15am	Ushers Training Meeting
<b>July 9-13, 9am-Noon</b>	<b>Soccer Camp 2018 (sign up now)</b> <b><u><a href="http://soccer.abidinggrace.com">soccer.abidinggrace.com</a></u></b>
July 14 <sup>th</sup> , 8am	Men's Bible Study (at Conyers Golden Corral on 138)
July 15 <sup>th</sup> , 6pm	Ladies Bible Study
<b>July 23-27</b>	<b>Camp S.O.U.T.H. (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Graders in Covington)</b>
Sun. Aug. 5 <sup>th</sup> , 8 & 10:30am	Vicar Farewell
Sun. Aug. 12 <sup>th</sup> , 8 & 10:30am	Vicar Welcome & Abiding Grace 15 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
Sept. 1-3	WELS Labor Day Retreat (High Springs, FL)