



Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

United in Christ. Welcoming All.

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24th Sunday After Pentecost

November 15, 2020

Welcome to Abiding Savior! We're glad you're here! Today's worship looks a lot different than what you might be accustomed to. The reason for this is that we've taken every precaution we can, following the recommendations of the CDC and the North Carolina Synod, to help stop the spread of COVID-19 during public gatherings. We cannot keep you 100% safe so your presence here involves some risk on your part. We long for the day when these precautions will be unnecessary and we can worship fully with no restrictions. Until then, we kindly ask you to wear a mask and follow the guidelines contained in this bulletin.

Gathering

Prelude

Invocation *[The Tibetan singing bowl is sounded three times.]*

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. Amen.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

L: We are the light of the world. We are created to shine.

Assist: Yet some days we don't feel much like shining.

L: The cares of the world make us draw into ourselves.

Assist: We keep our distance from others so no one can hurt us.

L: We hide our talents because we can't stand any more criticism.

Assist: We are afraid to love for fear of rejection.

L: Yet, you call us to be bold and step out in faith.

Assist: You call us to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with you.

L: Give us the courage to be ourselves and use our unique talents and abilities.

Assist: Help our lights to shine like bonfires so all may know they are loved by God and loved by us.

Gathering Song (We listen with our hearts. No singing, please.)

"Healer"

Chorus: Healer, Healer, come and heal this world [2X]

May we all offer up our hands. May we all altogether stand

May we all lay our weapons down. May we all find our common ground

Words and Music by Larry Olson, Copyright ©2009 Dakota Road Music. CCLI#846249

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord is with all of us. Let us pray...God of the Harvest, you bless us with good gifts beyond measure. Help us to be good stewards of all you have entrusted to us. Give us generous hearts and a will to make a difference in the lives of others. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

Word

Children's Sermon (Children will remain seated with their families.)

First Lesson Zephaniah 1:7,12-14

Assist: A reading from Zephaniah.

Hush before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is near! The Lord has established a sacrifice; God has made holy those God has summoned. At that time, I will search Jerusalem with lamps; I will punish those growing fat on the sediment in their wine, people saying to themselves, "The Lord won't do good or evil." Their wealth will be looted and their houses destroyed. They will rebuild houses, but not live in them; they will plant vineyards, but not drink the wine. The great day of the Lord is near; it is near and coming very quickly. [CEB]

Assist: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. Thanks be to God!

Psalm

Psalm 85



Refrain: God, plant a garden in our land where peace and justice grow.

L: God of Abundance, you blessed Israel
And returned the exiles to their homeland.

**Assist: You forgave the disobedience of your people
And covered all their sins.**

L: Therefore, we will listen carefully
To what you are saying, Almighty One

**Assist: Your voice speaks a word of peace to those who follow you;
Wholeness and happiness to those who remain faithful
And do not return to their foolish ways. R.**

L: Your saving power is near those who worship you;

Assist: Your glorious presence takes up residence in their land.

L: Lovingkindness and trustworthiness are bosom buddies;
Equity and peace embrace each other.

**Assist: Fidelity sprouts and yields a bumper crop;
Justice rains down from heaven. R.**

L: The Lord of the Harvest grows
A garden of good things in their land. The yield is unimaginable.

**Assist: God's virtue and justice lead the way,
Clearing a path for us to follow. R.**

Psalm paraphrase from The Psalms: Remixed by David Eck, © 2011. Used by permission.

Second Lesson

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Assist: A reading from 1st Thessalonians.

We don't need to write to you about the timing and dates. You know very well that the day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. When they are saying, "There is peace and security," at that time sudden destruction will attack them, like labor pains start with a pregnant woman, and they definitely won't escape. But you aren't in darkness, brothers and sisters, so the day won't catch you by surprise like a thief. All of you are children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to night or darkness.

So then, let's not sleep like the others, but let's stay awake and stay sober. People who sleep sleep at night, and people who get drunk get drunk at night. Since we belong to the day, let's stay sober, wearing faithfulness and love as a piece of armor that protects our body and the hope of salvation as a helmet. God didn't intend for us to suffer his wrath but rather to possess salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with him. So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are doing already. [CEB]

Assist: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. Thanks be to God!

Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

L: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and

trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master."

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." *[NRSV]*

L: The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Song of the Day (We listen with our hearts. No singing, please.)

ELW#674 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"
Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy
Bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard

Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
Pass the Word around: loaves abound! [2X]

Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone
Teaching people to live, to bless, love in word and in deed express

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God, Emmanuel, everywhere

The Apostles' Creed

Assist: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Assist: Let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. Each of us has been blessed with many abilities and resources both great and small. Teach us how to use them in service of others. Help us to get creative in the ways we shine God's light in the midst of this pandemic. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God the resources of the earth. Show us how to use them wisely so that they may be available for future generations to come. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God our church, some of whom are meeting in person today while others are worshipping online. Although we may be divided by distance in this time of pandemic, we are united in our hearts. Bless us and inspire us as we seek to find new ways to be the church. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God, those who suffer the ills of body, mind or spirit, especially Susan, Vicki, Toni as well as those who we name silently in our hearts. *(Pause)* God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Assist: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Peace

L: Take a look at those who surround us in this sacred space, and in our hearts, let's send them a blessing and a wish that the peace of Christ may be with them.

L: Then think about those who are members of our church and who are watching worship online. In our hearts, let's send them a blessing and a wish that the peace of Christ may be with them.

L: Finally, let that blessing and wish go out to members of our families, our friends, our neighbors, and throughout the world. With God's help, our hearts are big enough to extend peace that far. Let us also pledge to do what we can to embody the peace of Christ after we exit the building this morning. Amen.

Meal

Offering (The offering plate is in the gathering space if you missed it on your way into worship this morning. Thank you for your support of our ministry!)

Offering Prayer

Assist: Let us pray, Holy One, whose heart abounds with gifts, receive this offering as a sign of our intention to live surrounded by your mercy, inspired by your Spirit, open to the joy of your presence, hospitable to one another, and generous toward your world. Amen.

Call to Communion

L: We celebrate this holy meal because Jesus' ministry happened around tables: tables where the unwelcome were invited in, where the powerful were taught and humbled, where the hungry were fed, and the thirsty were given something to drink. In these meals God's saving presence was revealed and made real, and a new form of community was given birth.

Assist: We come to this table to meet Jesus, made known in the breaking of the bread.

Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord is with all of us. Let us lift up our hearts with hope and give thanks to the Lord our God. (*Pause for silence.*) We give our thanks and praise because Jesus has invited everyone to the Table. None of us are worthy, but all are welcome to come and dine. At the Table we experience forgiveness and healing. At the Table we hear the invitation to become one, just as Jesus and God are

one. Let us give thanks to our Savior who feeds us well with his many gifts of grace. Amen.

Assist: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us say silently in our hearts the prayer Jesus gave us: 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 Invitation to Communion

Assist: The gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!

Distribution of the Elements

(We ask people to come to the altar in family groups. There is bread and wine/ grape juice in individual cups. Pastor Dave will say, "The body of Christ given for you!" Then you may take the bread. He will do the same with the wine/grape juice. You may place the wine and bread cups in the small trash can next to the altar.)

Post Communion Prayer

L: Let us pray...O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

BENEDICTION

L: We have been blessed. Let us be a blessing. We have been loved. Let us love in return. We have been shown mercy. Let us be merciful to others. Amen.

Assist: Go in peace. Bless, love and serve in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Call to Worship, Prayer of the Day, Prayers, Great Thanksgiving and Benediction by David Eck, © 2020. Offering Prayer from "Touch Holiness: Resources For Worship" © 2012. Peace by David Eck, ©2020. Call to Communion from "Invited to the Feast of Creation" by the Rev. Betsy Flory, © 2008 Local Church Ministries, Post-Communion Prayer from Sundays and Seasons.

SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

Ministers	The People of Abiding Savior
Pastor	Rev. David Eck
Pianist	Anne Schwabaland
Reader/Worship Assistant	
Tabulators	Tom & Pam Radle

CALENDAR

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTOR DAVE WILL BE ON VACATION THIS WEEK. In case of pastoral emergencies, he can be reached on his cell phone, 505-5229.

CHURCH CLEANERS and **WORSHIP ASSISTANT** sign up sheets are in the gathering space. Please consider volunteering your time. Thank you!

PLEDGE CARDS and **TIME AND TALENT SHEETS** can be turned into the church at any time by mail or drop them off in the offering plate. Thank you for your continued support of our congregation!

ADVENT ACTIVITY SHEETS are available to download from the church's web site. This year people are encouraged to make their own Advent wreath and follow the daily intentions on these activities pages.