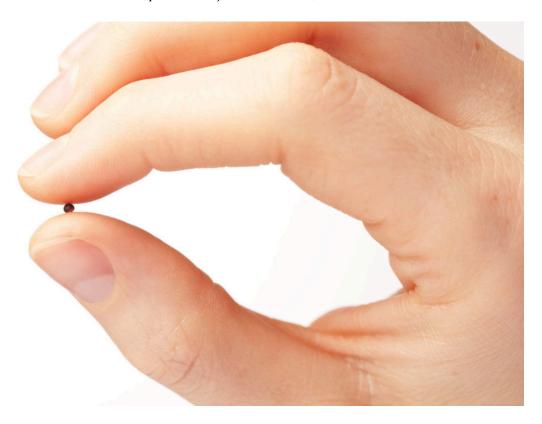
Abiding Peace Lutheran Church

305-311 Route 46, Budd Lake, NJ 07828 973-691-9393 • www.abidingpeacechurch.org Serena Rice, *pastor* • Benjamin Schroeder, *music director*



Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost -Blessing of the Animals

October 5, 2025 10:00 a.m.

Welcome to Abiding Peace Lutheran Church!



Abiding Peace Lutheran Church makes Christ known by welcoming all people to a supportive and accepting place to grow in faith and community and to serve the Lord as people created by God, saved by Christ, and nurtured by the Holy Spirit. We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, committed to the full inclusion and celebration of people of all sexualities, genders, and gender expressions, and to the work of racial equity.

In-person visitors are invited to share their contact information with the usher if they would like a follow-up with the pastor. Thank you for blessing us with your presence. We welcome children to worship and we encourage their participation, including their wiggles and child voices. There is a seating area at the back of the sanctuary with room for little ones to crawl around. If desired, there is also a nursery room available, accompanied by parents or guardians.

Offering: The Ministry of Abiding Peace is supported by the generous donations of our community. Please consider supporting our work through a variety of giving options, including donations through Venmo (search for @Abiding-Peace-BuddLake), online bill pay with your bank, mailing your offering envelope to the church, or plate giving.

Holy Communion: We commune at the altar rail. Please collect an individual cup from the usher when you come forward, or come forward at the end for the common cup. We offer either wine or juice and allergen-free bread. If you are unable to come forward to receive communion, the usher can bring communion to you. You are also welcome to come forward with arms crossed for a blessing.

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Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

WORDS FOR REFLECTION

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

PRELUDE

The Swan (Le Cygne) from *The Carnival of the Animals*

Camille Saint-Saëns arr. Lucien Garban

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

- P In the name of the Father, and of the \oplus Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- *P* Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- *P* Merciful God,
- C you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer to pursue temporary satisfaction and selfish ends. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.
- P Beloved church, you belong to Christ Jesus, and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of \oplus Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

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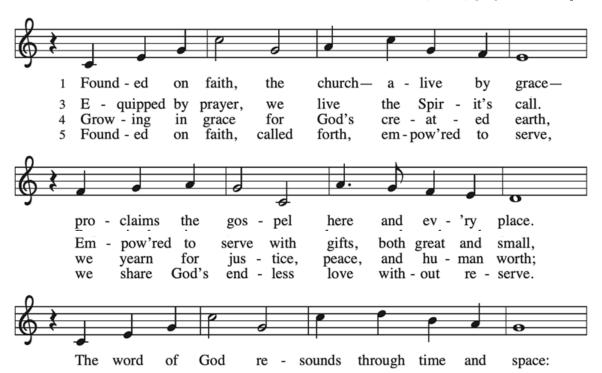
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Founded on Faith, vs. 1, 3–5 **ACS 1048**



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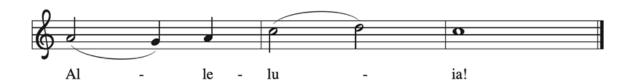
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Word!



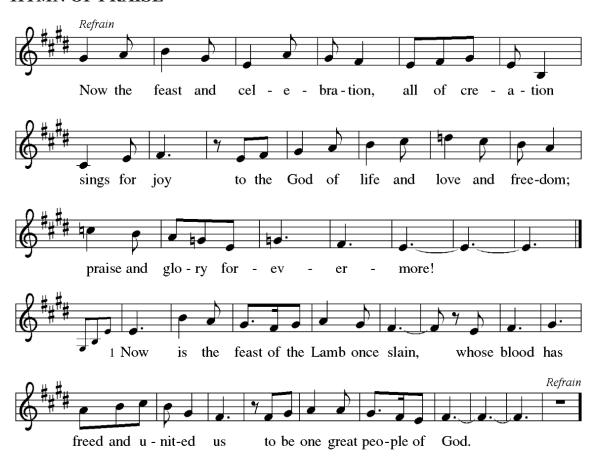
Text: Paul D. Weber, b. 1949

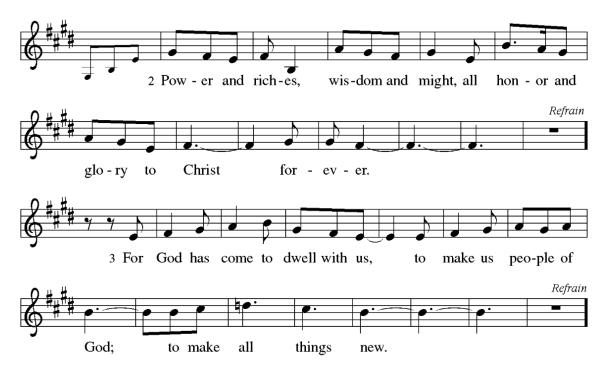
Music: FOUNDED ON FAITH, Paul D. Weber Text and music © 2017 Paul D. Weber, admin. Augsburg Fortress

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE





- *P* The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray. Benevolent, merciful God,
- C When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

THE FIRST READING

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

Injustice and violence in the time leading up to the Babylonian exile move this prophet to lament: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent? God answers by proclaiming that the righteous will live by faith.

L A reading from Habakkuk.

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrong doing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law becomes slack, and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous; therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watchpost and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, But the righteous live by their faithfulness.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM Psalm 37:1–9

The Psalm will be spoken responsively, by verse.

- Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.
- 3 Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
- 4 Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord, and see what God will do.

- 6 The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case, like the noonday sun.
- Be still before the Lord and wait patiently.Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 8 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.
- 9 For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

THE SECOND READING

2 Timothy 1:1–14

This letter written to Timothy is a personal message of encouragement. In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his faith is a gift of God. He is encouraged to exercise that faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.

L A reading from 2^{nd} Timothy.

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, to Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.

For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

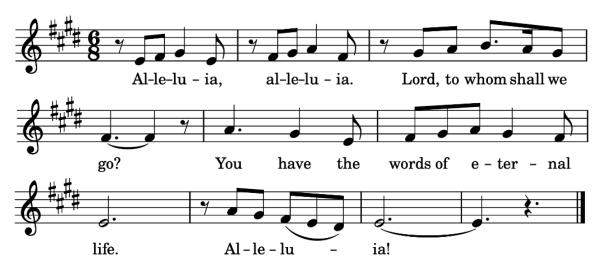
For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him.

Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

- L The Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please stand, if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE GOSPEL Luke 17:5-10

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter:

C Glory to you, O Lord.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

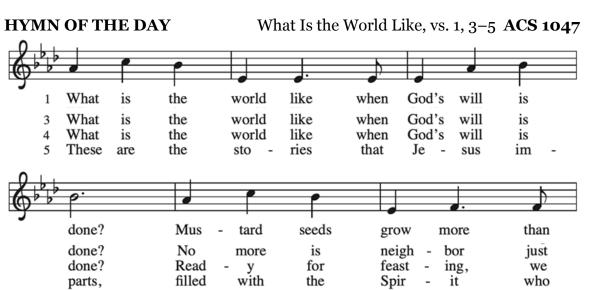
"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

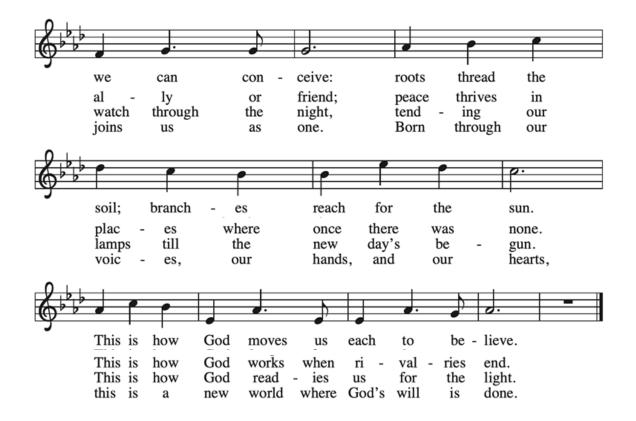
- *P* The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows. All stand and sing the Hymn of the Day.





Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: NEW WORLD, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

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APOSTLES' CREED

C 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

Silence is kept for reflection.

A O God of ages past, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith. May the faith of those who taught us to know you continue to support the growth of our faith in your Son, Jesus Christ. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A O God of revelation, you give the church a treasure in Jesus Christ. Draw us into the work of learning from and sharing this gift passed down from generation to generation. Remind your people that faith the size of a mustard seed is enough. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A O God of creation, you nourish the earth with grace and mercy. Bring favorable weather during the harvest season and sustain all who labor to gather and prepare our food. Ensure the welfare of animal companions whose presence offers comfort, safety, and joy. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A O God of nations and communities, you govern and guard the world. Give leaders and people in authority a commitment to making just and righteous laws. Bring peace and healing to regions affected by war and violence, including Palestine, Ukraine, and Sudan. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A O God of the suffering, you care for those who are sick, oppressed, bereaved, lonely, and poor. Come to the help of all in need and teach us how to be your hands and feet in acts of compassion. Help us to trust that you will come to us at the right time. We pray for all who are mourning and for all on our prayer list, including Jackson, Donna, Jeanne, Valeriy, Jennifer, Mark, John, Karen & Ken, David, Charles, Patricia, Alia, and Aimee. (Pause to allow additional prayers to be offered.) We pray for all in harm's way, including essential workers, our armed forces, and all serving overseas. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

Α O God of this congregation, you nurture our faith in all times and circumstances. Thank you for those of all ages who teach, lead, and learn in this congregation and beyond. Give growth to the seeds of faith watered by faithful examples of baptismal living. God of grace,

\boldsymbol{C} receive our prayer.

Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our \boldsymbol{A} Savior.

\boldsymbol{C} Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you. \boldsymbol{C}

The Ministers and People share the sign of peace. Afterward, please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE OFFERING

Now we join Christians all over the world in worshiping God through the giving of our financial resources, in recognition and thanksgiving that all we have comes from God.

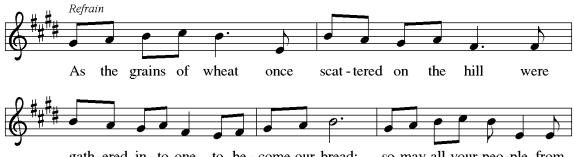
Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.



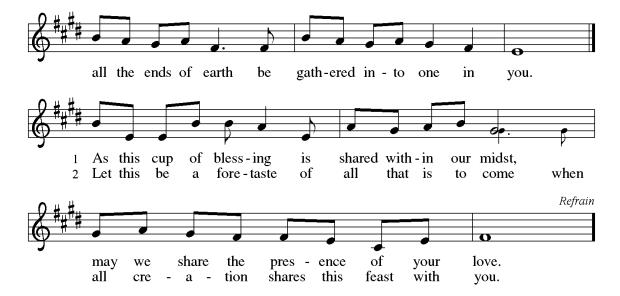
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CHOIR ANTHEM

Alleluia! The Word of the Lord Endures Forever (1 Peter 1:25) Benjamin Schroeder



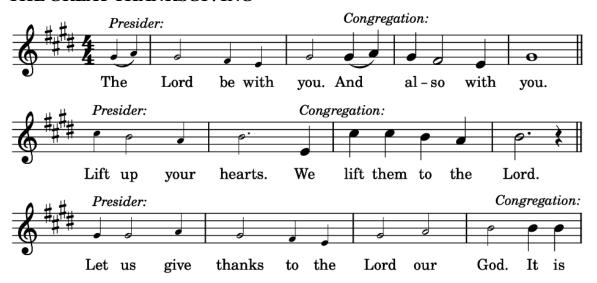
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



A Creator God,

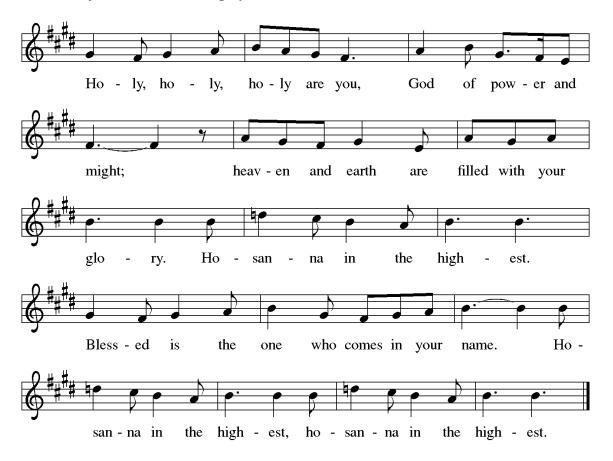
C in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good, and the earth's harvest is sufficient for all to be fed. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING





P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P Holy God, you have reached out to us to show us your love and grace through your Son, Jesus Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, in remembrance of what Christ has done for us, we call out in faith for your Holy Spirit to fill our lives, and to unite your church. Bless us and send us to honor you through our service.

C Amen.

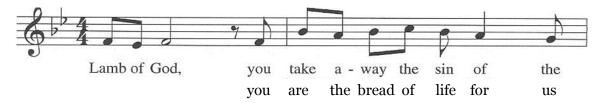
THE LORD'S PRAYER

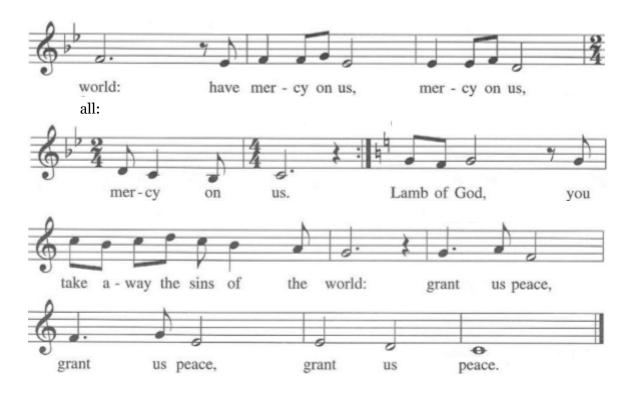
- *P* Jesus, teach us to pray:
- C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

- *P* The kingdom of God is set before you.
- C We eat and rejoice.

You will be invited to come forward to the altar rail, collecting a cup from the usher. Please observe distancing at the rail, hold your hand flat for the bread, and raise your cup for the chalice bearer to pour. You may leave your cup in the basket in the front row when you return to your seat.





COMMUNION HYMN

My Faith Looks Up to Thee ELW 759



- 1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal va ry,
- 2 May thy rich grace im part strength to my faint ing heart,
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a round me spread,
- 4 When ends life's tran sient dream, when death's cold, sul len stream





Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887. Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872.

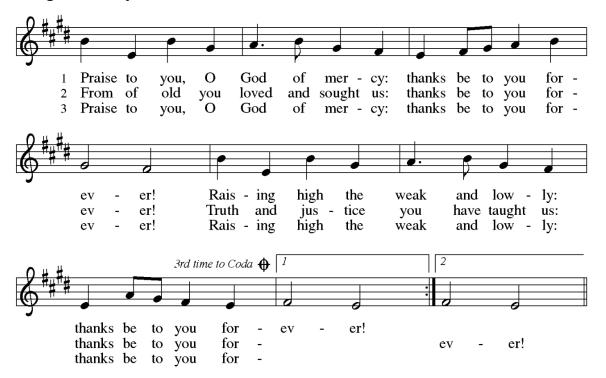
Stand, if you are able.

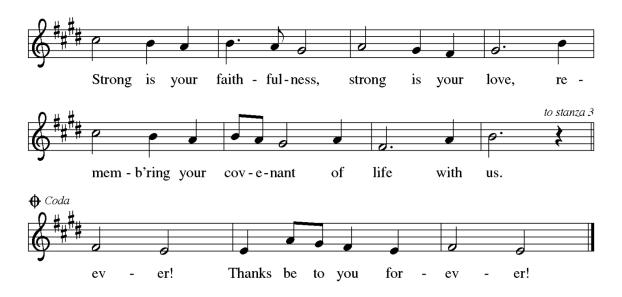
P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

A Mothering God,

C You gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.





SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Worshippers are invited to bring forward their animals, or photos of animals, to be blessed at the altar rail. After the individual blessings, you may return to your seat for the prayer.

P Gracious and loving God, you place all living things into the care of humankind. We pray that companionship with household pets will deepen our care for animals everywhere. Help us to balance our needs with theirs, and lead us in the ways of life together that will be sustainable for all. We pray in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P The love of God abound in your lives; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fills your hearts; and the life of the Spirit \oplus bless you and give you peace.

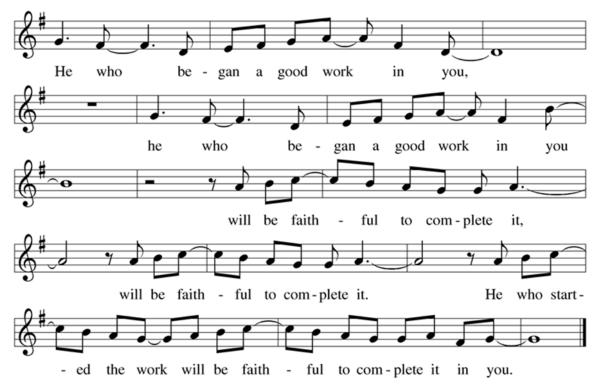
C Amen.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

All stand, as able, and sing.



Text & music: John Mohr. © Capitol CMG Publishing

DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Praise band

During the postlude, please offer your prayers of blessing for the animals of our congregation and of the world, depicted in our photo montage.



Pianist Emma Liu is a prizewinner of multiple national and international competitions and has performed throughout the world. As a collaborative pianist, Ms. Liu has worked closely with some of the leading musicians, such as Lorian McGhee, Marianne Gedigian, and Richie Hawley, to name a few. Ms. Liu is on the music faculty of The Pingry School and maintains a private studio in the New York metropolitan area.

Next Week's Lessons: 2 Kings 5:1-15c Psalm III 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:II-19

Serving in Worship		
	Today, 10/5	Next Week, 10/12
Altar Guild	Demetria Laird	Demetria Laird
Counter	Ursula Schroeder	Nita Persson
Assistant Minister	Demetria Laird	Sandy Carlson
Lector	Roy Persson	Sue Stirrat
Communion Assist.	Sibylle Schroeder	Cindy Pawlo
Usher/Greeter	Sandy Carlson	Mary Kasakove
Acolyte	Doug Laird	Howard Corneilson
Soloist	Aaron Hyndman	Sibylle Schroeder
Livestream Assistant	Tyler Rice	Ray Mueller

OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Serena: Wed, 10/8, 3:30pm-9:00pm; Thurs, 10/9, 9:00am-1:30pm; Sun 10/12, 9:00am-1:00pm **Catherine Belfiore:** Thurs, 10/9, 9:00am-12:00pm

Keep These Friends in Your Prayers: Those who are sick or in need: Bill Phinney, Joshua Olsen, Jon, Cheryl Inglin, Judy Consentino, Jon & Maria, Sandy Kahler, Karen Qualls, Jim Tangen, Otto Schroeder, Don Larsen, Joseph Horn, Ryan Manhardt, Grace Bessasparis, Jackson Cook, Donna Fahy, Jeanne Scalora, Valeriy Braginets, Jennifer Kahler, Mark Dennis, John Corneilson, Karen & Ken Predmore and family, David Breault, Charles Wetzel, Patricia Coats, Alia Duffy, Aimee Nilsen, Lydia Millner, Dean Kowal, April Inglin, Bella Adams, Bodhi Maslow, Barbara P, Susan & William Swainy, Scott Schaefer, Audrey Moehringer, George Schroeder, Sibylle Scheiermann, Leslie Picinich, Hailey Ochs Plante, Kate Draven, Dawn Huber, Heinz and family, Ellen Parker, Vicki Gentler, Carol Baker, Darrell Senior, Shariff Stewart, Lisa Wolper, Maxine Wolper, Samy Dawood, David Laird, Peter Jensen, Joan Lewis, Jose, Linn Fisher, and Judy Day and family.

Those in mourning: The loved ones of Carole Ernstrom; those mourning Maria's mother, Juanita; The friends and family of Kenneth Johanson; the friends and family of Harold Olsen; The Persson Family on the loss of Carrin (daughter of Jan, sister of Krista); The family of Woody Woodruff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Church office hours: Pastor Serena will generally hold office hours on Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. She is also available for pastoral care by phone, zoom or other means on other days (Saturday is her day off). If you have a need to access the church building, please contact Pastor Serena.
- ~ Food Pantry Needs for March: Peanut butter, Parmalat milk, fruit, juice, hot dogs & buns, frozen meatballs, mashed potatoes, rice, crackers, cake mixes, gluten-free pasta.
- ~ Altar Flowers: Please consider signing up for altar flower donations. Price: \$17.50. If interested please sign up by the last Sunday of the prior month. You may sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex or send an email to Erin Porter (aplcbuddlake@gmail.com) with your dedication and the date you want the flowers on the Altar and send your check to the church.
- ~ Interested in hosting a coffee hour? Not hard. Just bring some store-bought baked goods. Coffee is already prepared ahead of time by the Altar Guild. Questions: Call Demetria Laird at 973-398-9614.

ART, MUSIC, AND LITURGY

Art: Photo by Rabbi Avi Shafran. https://www.rabbiavishafran.com/save-the-mustard-seed/.

Music: Unless otherwise noted, music is reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-700457 and CCLI #2840035.

Service Music: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen, b.1950, Text: Lutheran Book of Worship, adapt. Marty Haugen, Text and Music @1990 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 Mason Ave, Chicago, IL, 60638.

Liturgy: Liturgy reprinted by permission of Augsburg Fortress under License #14239-LIT.

This week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, October 5

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. In-person and Live-streamed
- Council Meeting, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, October 6

• Worship & Music Committee, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

Tuesday, October 7

• Faith Kitchen, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 8

- Unfinished Objects Gathering, 2:00 p.m.
- New Members Class, 5:00 p.m.
- AA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Taizé service, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 9

- Stewardship Planning meeting, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Mt. Olive Pride meeting, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Zumba, 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 10

Saturday, October 11

Next week at Abiding Peace

Sunday, October 12

- Worship Service, 10:00 a.m. In-person and Live-streamed
- Balcony Conversation, 11:30 a.m.

Monday, October 13

Tuesday, October 14

Wednesday, October 15

- Senior's Ministry Halloween Party, 2:00 p.m.
- Prayer Service at Mt. Olive Manor, 4:30 p.m.
- AA meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- WELCA Zoom Meeting on Faithful Welcome, 7:00 p.m.
- Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 16

Friday, October 17

Saturday, October 18

- Zumba, 9:00 a.m.
- Open Invitation to Sheeba's house

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Oct. 26 - Reformation Sunday Worship & Faire

For all live-streamed services, click (or type) the link below: https://www.facebook.com/AbidingPeaceChurch/live