

Epiphany of Our Lord ~ January 5, 2025

Aiding Hope Lutheran Church

Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor

Sheryl Williams, Co-Ordinator of Music



The feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit call us together as the people of God

Please stand.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation. **Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess
our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be
messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our
joy, our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our
neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

**Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life
in you. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG ~ ELW 303 *Brightest and Best of the Stars v.1,2,3*

GREETING

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

HYMN of PRAISE



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



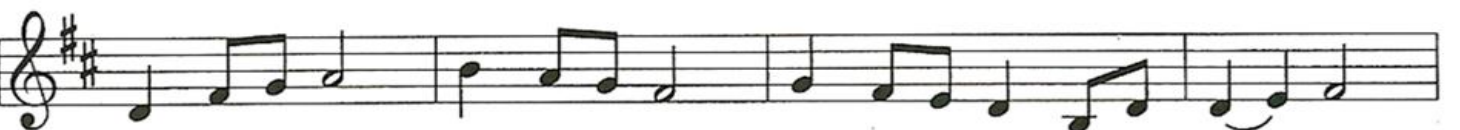
glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



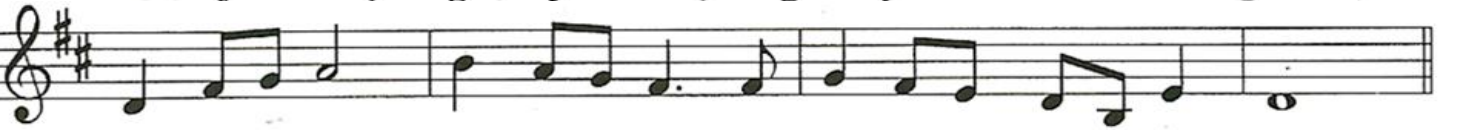
☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

☐ For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together
A brief silence is kept before the prayer. **Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

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

Please be seated

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60:1-6

¹Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.²For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.³Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.⁴Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.⁵Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 72:1-7,10-14 Sung Responsively

Tone 11



¹Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

²**that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

⁴**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

⁶**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

⁷In his time may the ^l righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall ^l be no more.

¹⁰**May the kings of Tarshish and of the ^l isles pay tribute,
and the kings of Sheba and Seba ^l offer gifts.**

¹¹May all kings bow ^l down before him,
and all the nations ^l do him service.

¹²**For the king delivers the poor who cry out ^l in distress,
the oppressed, and those who ^l have no helper.**

¹³He has compassion on the low- ^l ly and poor,
and preserves the lives ^l of the needy.

¹⁴**From oppression and violence he re- ^l deems their lives,
and precious is their blood ^l in his sight.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:1-12

¹This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—²for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, ³and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, ⁴a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. ⁵In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: ⁶that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ⁷Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power.

⁸Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; ¹⁰so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹²in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 2. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON ~ Pastor Karen Parsh

HYMN of the DAY ~ **ELW 300** **The First Noel** v.1,3, 5

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 truly 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 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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

PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people. *A brief silence.*

Your glory fills the earth. Bless the work of all who engage in dialogue with people of other traditions and faiths. Bridge our differences with a shared mission of revealing your boundless love to the world. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Restore the glory of creation. Send rain to water-parched lands. Revive ecosystems and habitats threatened by a changing climate, and protect the peoples and creatures who live in them. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Give the rulers your justice and reveal your righteousness to those who govern. Encourage the work of community organizers and activists who speak out against injustice. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Help those who have no helper. Draw near to those who have no one to advocate for them or those who feel forgotten. Deliver those who are ill, depressed, grieving or overwhelmed with life's tasks and call to you for help. We pray especially for: Damian, Suzanne, Mary, Jonathan & Analee, Pat K., Linda, Marjorie, Jackie, Ed, Judi, Ron F., Sam & Dorothy Elder, Judy, Carolyn M., Larry & Barb, Tom, Esther, Kathi (Cindy Filson's sister), Dave P., Don & Donna, and Evelyn and the prayer requests from our Little Library friends. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Liberate this congregation from a yearning for the past that forgets the future. Fuel in us a passion for discovery. Give us the boldness to dream and to imagine our ministries in new and different ways. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS

Choir Anthem ~ *Noel, Noel*

Please stand

OFFERTORY HYMN ~ **WOV 646** *We Three Kings*

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together. **God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

Please Stand

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav - en 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.

THANKSGIVING at the TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection,
and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion
we may know the unity we share with all your people
in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught 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.

Please be seated

INVITATION to COMMUNION

Glory to God in the highest! Come to the table of peace.

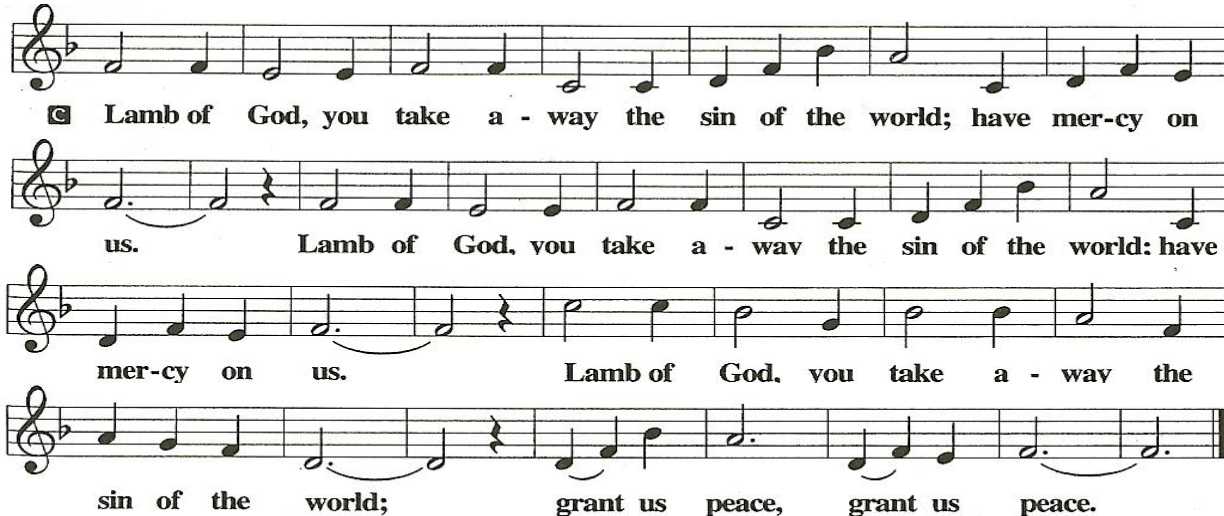
At Abiding Hope all believers are welcome to share Holy Communion at the table of the Lord. After receiving the bread, (gluten free) you may receive wine from the chalice poured into individual glasses or you may choose pre-poured grape juice (in center of tray) as an alternative.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

LAMB of GOD



☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world: have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS ~ WOV 638 *Holy Child within the Manger*
Instrumental Meditation

PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our † Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER after

Let us pray. **God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Please stand

SENDING

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

SENDING HYMN ~ ELW 302 *As with Gladness* v.1,4,5

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, † Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

PARISH NOTES ~ January 5, 2025

Pastor Karen Parsh – 814-881-3266 Pastorparsh@gmail.com

ahadministrator@hotmail.com - www.abidinghopeerie.org -

FB: [abidinghopelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/abidinghopelutheranchurch)

Please keep these members and friends in your prayers:

Damian Santabene, Mary Randall, Suzanne Clark, Jonathan & Analee Cree, Pat Kerr, Linda Allen, Marjorie Wonner, Jackie Seib, Ed Whitbred, Judi Pacileo, Ron Froess, Sam & Dorothy Elder, Judy Nordin, Carolyn Mariotti, Larry & Barb Ruhlman, Tom Cirillo, Esther Klakamp, Kathi (Cindy Filson's sister), Dave Parsh, Don & Donna Holder, Evelyn Senger, and prayer requests from our Little Library friends.

Sunday, January 5: Choir: 9:00a Worship 9:30a Movie ~ Chosen 1045a
Choir will be on hiatus for the remainder of January. Rehearsal will resume February 2, 2025.

Sunday, January 5: 24 Days of Advent ~ KAFP -final day for donations.

Sunday, January 5, 12, 19: Worship, 9:30a. Movie ~ Chosen @ 10:45a.

*Dear Abiding Hope Family,
Many, many thanks for my Christmas gift.
Your kindness and generosity are so very much appreciated.
Heartfelt wishes for a Happy and Blessed New Year, denise*

Wednesday, January 15: Prayer Warriors from 1-3p. You may come in at any time to pray, in either the "Quiet Room" or Sanctuary.

Thursday, January 16: Lutheranism for All Believers. Learning about what Lutheran's believe with Pastor Karen. **Classes @ 1:00p.** See graphic on pg. 12.

Thursday, January 16: To start out the new year, **Ladies Night Out-530p**, will meet at **The CAB**. Join in for a fun night of good food, conversation and some LAUGHS. Sign up sheet in the narthex, please **RSVP by Monday, Jan 13.** Drivers/riders meet @ AHLC, 5:00p. All ladies are welcome.

Altar Flowers: Anyone who wishes to **donate flowers** for Sunday worship, weekly sign-up sheet and request forms on table in narthex. Arrangements-\$**20.00 each**. Place the **completed form and payment** in the offering plate, or to the office at least two weeks, no less than one, prior to your chosen Sunday.

**Members who sponsored poinsettias
are welcome to take the plant following this morning's service.**

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, 9:30a-3:30p. Wednesday, 9:30a-12:30p. For immediate pastoral assistance, call **Pastor Karen**, 814-881-3266.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

following worship

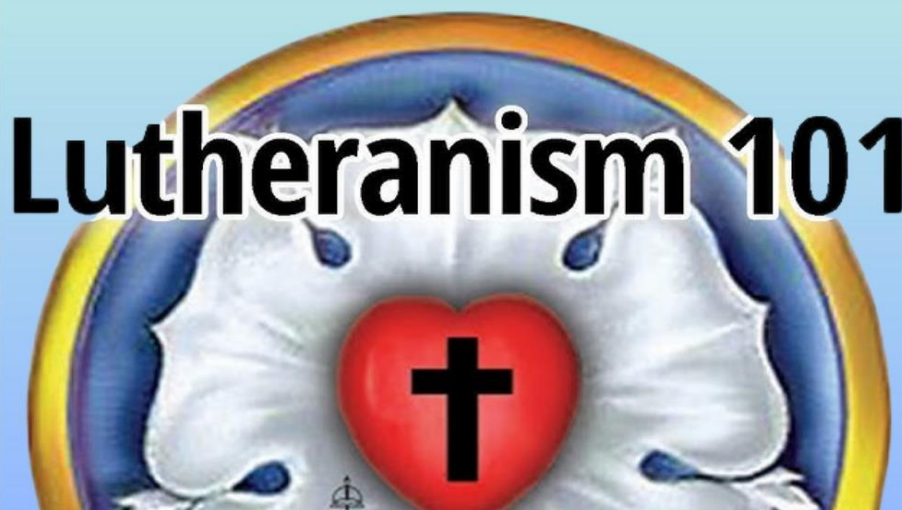


WORSHIP LEADERS ~ JANUARY 5, 2024

Videographer	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Cindy Filson
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Damian Santabene
Lector/Prayers	Judi Pacileo
Communion Cups	Connie Kerr-Vogt
Communion Tray	Kayla & Emily Miller
Presenter	Cindy Filson
Presenter	Carolyn Hayes
Usher	Rich Filson
Usher	Andy Saska
Counters	Lois & Diana

Have you ever wondered what makes Abiding Hope different from other churches? What do Lutherans believe and why? Are you interested in brushing up on your LUTHERAN KNOWLEDGE? Would you enjoy studying the great stories of how we became a church and what we believe? Well, sign up for the 6-week class on Lutheranism and find out!

Lutheranism For All Believers



WHEN: First Class is Thursday, January 16th at 1PM and continues every Thursday for 6 weeks

WHERE: 3649 Gerry Ave. (Pastor Karen's new house)

WHO: Anyone with an interest in learning, especially new members

TEACHER: Pastor Karen

INTERESTED? Sign-up sheet is in the narthex or call the church office at 814-868-8685 to RSVP.

