



Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

Gainesville, Florida

Second Sunday in Advent

December 5, 2021

8:00 am

Pastor:

Rev. Jack Mackowiak

Joy to the World

G.F. Root, 1815
Lyrics by Thomas Oliphant



Announcements and Reminders

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an usher.

Sunday Adult Bible Studies.

Canclcd this week for the congregational meeting, will resume next week.

9:45 am – “Girl Friends” Bible Study meets in the Library of Building 3. This class is led by Linda Struckmeyer, Debbie Hill, and Karen Brautcheck and is also available via Zoom. Join us for a study of the book of **Hebrews** titled “*Better*”. Contact Linda at struck60@gmail.com for a Zoom link.

9:45 am – Study the Bible “*One Book at a Time*” with Chuck Moss in the Building 1 classroom. This group is studying the Old Testament book of **Daniel**. Contact Chuck_Moss@msn.com for a Zoom link for this class.

9:45 am – Pastor Jack leads a study of the book of **Ephesians**. This class meets in the Octagon room in the FLC.

Monday 7:00 pm - A study of the book of **Colossians** is led by Joshua Mazur via Zoom. For the Zoom link, contact Jmazur@abidingsavior.info.

Sunday School for children through 5th grade continues! Join us in the Family Life Center fellowship hall at 9:45 or contact Sarah Sain at Sarah.d.sain@gmail.com for an online link for your child.

Parents and Tots Sunday School for preschoolers led by Susan Moss in the nursery at 10:00 am.

Children's Activity Bulletins are available on the welcome table in the Narthex.

Midweek Advent Service - This Wednesday, December 8 at 7 pm and next Wednesday, December 15 at 7 pm.

Congregational Meeting will be held between services **today** in the FLC. Members will be asked to consider the church operating budget for 2022.

The 2021 Star Tree is up and running! This year we are supporting students at Mebane Middle School in Alachua. Please see the Star Tree in the narthex; we have plenty of children who still need to be sponsored! Please return gifts by Sunday, December 12.

Winter Wonderland & Open House on December 11, from 3 pm - 7 pm in the Family Life Center. Enjoy Christmas fellowship and bring cookies to share. There will be a kid's movie in the youth room as well.

Danza! Capella Nova presents Rustic Holiday Songs & Dances with instrumental ensemble – December 11 at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary

Youth Progressive Dinner beginning at 4 pm on Dec. 18. This is an event for our youth and their guests. We begin at church.

Order poinsettias for the Christmas season in memory or honor of someone special in your life. Payment must be made at the time the order is placed. The last day to order will be December 19, the cost for each poinsettia is \$8. You can take yours home after the 8:00 pm service on December 24.

Order forms can be found on the table in the narthex.

Christmas Celebration (aka Madrigal Dinner) on December 19 at 6 pm. Tickets are \$10 and for sale after each service and in the church office.

2022 Offering Envelopes are on a table in the narthex. If you had envelopes during 2021, your box is labeled. If you did not have envelopes in 2021, and would like a box for 2022, sign your name on the clipboard beside the envelope boxes and we will get a box to you before 2022.

2022 Flower Chart is up on the narthex wall near the church office. Dates are still available to sponsor altar flowers. The cost is \$40.

Advent Devotion Books from Lutheran Hour ministries are on the welcome table in the narthex.

New Member Class, Sundays 2pm. This class is for those who would like to know more about what Lutheran Christians believe and/or are interested in joining Abiding Savior. Contact Pastor Jack or the church office if you have any questions. Childcare is available on request.

Send Your Newsletter Articles to office@abidingsavior.info by the 25th of the month.

THE CALL PROCESS – A Primer, part 5

When our Pastor receives a (second) call, he will seek God's will. We will pray that God help him learn God's will. If a congregation does not want the Pastor to leave, they do well to tell them so. It is not wise to suddenly become more cooperative or generous to a Pastor when he has a call, since he may suspect insincerity due to duress. It tends to work better to be cooperative and dedicated and generous before any call comes.

At the same time, many congregations fear that when a liked or capable Pastor leaves, that they could not be replaced, or that successful ministries will die out. Yet, no one in church work is irreplaceable. God has many capable replacements waiting. The goal should not be to say, "We want to keep this Pastor." It should be to say, "Who does God want us to have here to do the job with our help and the Holy Spirit's."

If the Pastor believes he has not heard a clear invitation from God to move, we rejoice that he stays with us, and we rededicate our actions and join him in eagerly working together to more actively serve God and those around us.

If he believes that God is clearly inviting him to leave, we quietly (and sadly) accept his faithfulness to God. If he leaves, we need to begin the process of asking God for a new Pastor.

Many things will change. During a vacancy we will need to continue our service to God. We may need to pick up some of the activities the Pastor was doing as part of his service to God. Some programs may have to be delayed because of the vacancy, but we should try to maintain a consistent level of services and programs.

The Circuit Visitor will also help in setting up Pastoral services for worship, visitation, etc. during the vacancy. The church leadership will contact the Circuit Visitor first to secure the services of a vacancy pastor. Some congregations may also investigate the need or services of an Intentional Interim Pastor. In either case, this is certainly a time for the congregation to do some self-evaluation, goal setting and planning. This is also a time when a Pastor profile will be established to help in the search for a new Pastor.

In a case like Abiding Savior, where multiple staff is available, the church leadership will usually work together to establish a new temporary structure so ministry can continue without interruption. They will work with the remaining staff to make sure all areas of ministry are covered to maintain an appropriate level of services and programs.

A vacancy is also a time to practice (or learn) patience. People may feel down because their friend and Pastor left. People may be anxious to get on with the privilege of serving Jesus and want an immediate call meeting. Remember most vacancies last more than a year.

More to come...

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PREPARATION

Prelude

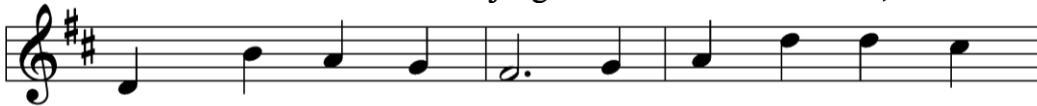
Welcome and Announcements

Hymn of Invocation: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

sts. 1-2, 4, 6



1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love
6 He comes to judge the na - tions, A



wel - come You a - right? Your peo - ple long to
boughs and fair - est palms; And I too will a -
brought You down to me. Your thirst for my sal -
ter - ror to His foes, A light of con - so -



greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light! O
dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms. My
va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty. Oh,
la - tions And bless - ed hope to those Who



kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast
heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais-es new
love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace
love the Lord's ap - pear - ing. O glo - rious Sun, now come,



To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.
Send forth Your beams so cheer - ing, And guide us safe - ly home.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Through the prophet Malachi God promised to purify His people so they could bring Him their offerings in the righteousness He would provide.

C We confess that even after our Lord's coming in grace and mercy we have turned aside from God's statutes and have not kept them. We repent and ask our heavenly Father to guide us in His ways.

P In writing to the Philippians, Paul gives thanks that his readers are partakers with him in grace.

C We confess that though we know God's grace, our love does not always abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, and is not always sincere and excellent. We repent and ask our Lord to increase an awareness of His love in our lives.

P To prepare the people for the coming of our Lord, John the Baptist called them to repentance for the forgiveness of their sins.

C We confess that we conceal our sin privately. We resist confessing those sins that are seemingly too painful to bear. At times we are skeptical about the absolute grace and forgiveness of Christ. Forgive our hesitancy to speak and share the truth of our sinful brokenness.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P Our gracious God does not change. He keeps all His promises. Through Word and Sacrament He continues to shower His grace and mercy on us for Jesus' sake, preparing us to meet our Lord in His righteousness at His second Advent. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Lighting Of The Advent Wreath

P We gather here today knowing that we are not perfect.

C We all make mistakes and do bad things.

P Only Jesus obeyed God fully. He helps us live as God wants us to live.

C He gives us His peace.

P We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into our darkness.

C With the coming of this light there is peace.

P Christ is called the “Prince of Peace.” His name is also Emmanuel, “God with us.”

C His presence with us gives us peace day by day.

Lighting of the Candles: We Light the Advent Candle

sts. 1–2



1 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And wait for Christ to
2 We light the Ad - vent can - dle And thank the Lord for



come. With hope, we trust the prom - ise That
rest. With peace, we know our Je - sus Has



He will bring us home. Our hope is in our
come to be our guest. This peace be - yond all



Sav - ior Who wins for us God's fa - vor. We
know - ing With - in our hearts is glow - ing. We



wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!
wait with grow - ing light Till God makes all things right!

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SERVICE OF THE WORD

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray... Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His second coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds;

through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 3:1–7b

¹“Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

⁵“Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

⁶“For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. ⁷From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

Philippians 1:2–11

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1–6

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁴As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall become straight,
and the rough places shall become level ways,
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered and was buried.
 And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
 and ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of the Father.
 And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
 whose kingdom will have no end.
 And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
 who spoke by the prophets.
 And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
 and I look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 344 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; Make straight the
 3 We hail Thee as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our ref - uge
 4 Lay on the sick Thy heal - ing hand And make the
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to Thee Whose ad - vent
 that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and hear - ken,
 way for God with - in, And let us all our
 and our great re - ward; With - out Thy grace we
 fall - en strong to stand; Show us the glo - ry
 sets Thy peo - ple free, Whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare For Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 of Thy face Till beau - ty springs in ev - 'ry place.
 we a - dore And Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Christmas is Here-Hear the Voice (Luke 3:1-6)

Gathering of Offerings and Prayer Requests

Voluntary

Stand

Prayer of the Church

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface

LSB 160

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also with you.
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** We lift them to the Lord.
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Sanctus

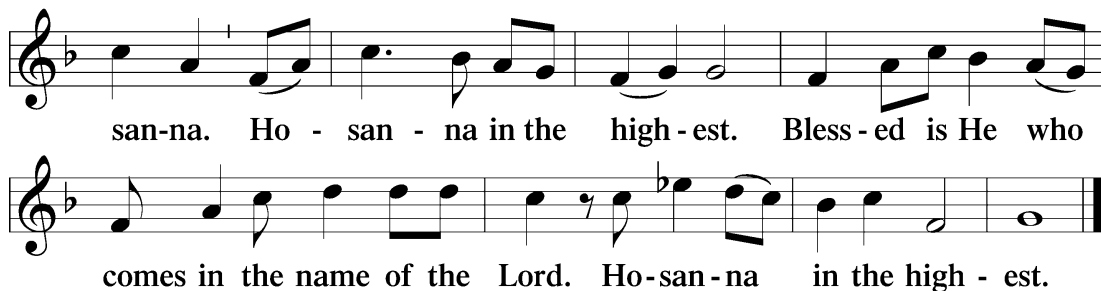
LSB 161



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



Prayer of Thanksgiving

LSB 161

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

LSB 163

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

LSB 163

C 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.

Sit

Distribution

Stand

The Dismissal

Nunc Dimittis

LSB 165

C Lord, now You let Your ser-vant go in peace; Your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va-tion which You have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re -

veal You to the na-tions and the glo-ry of Your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

Glo-ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;

as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men.

Post-Communion Collect

P O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

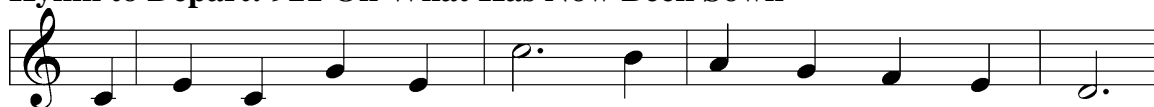
Benediction

LSB 166

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

Hymn to Depart: 921 On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown Thy bless - ing, Lord, be - stow;
2 To Thee our wants are known, From Thee are all our pow'rs;
3 O grant that each of us, Now met be - fore Thee here,



The pow'r is Thine a - lone To make it sprout and grow. Do Thou
Ac - cept what is Thine own And par-don what is ours. Our prais -
May meet to - geth - er thus When Thou and Thine ap - pear And fol -



in grace the har - vest raise, And Thou a - lone shalt have the praise!
es, Lord, and prayers re - ceive, And to Thy Word a bless-ing give.
low Thee to heav'n, our home. E'en so, a - men, Lord Je - sus, come!

Postlude

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Connecting Jesus to People's Hearts
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Serving Today

Pastor: Rev. Jack Mackowiak
Director of Music Ministry: Joshua Mazur

8:00 AM 10:45 AM

Acolyte: Volunteer Acolyte: Volunteer

Elder of the Month: Charles Moss Elder of the Month: Fred Townsend

Reader: Pete Schmitt Reader: Brenda Arden

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS (December 12)

First Reading - Zephaniah 3:14-20

Second Reading - Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel Reading - Luke 3:7-18



*Today's altar flowers are
provided by the Suters in
memory of Anabel's baptism*



Last Week's Attendance

8:00am: 60

10:45am: 47

Total: 107

Last Week's Offerings

Offerings: \$ 3,317

Building: \$ 0

2021 Year to Date

Avg. Attendance: 93

Total Offerings: \$ 237,927

Avg. Weekly: \$ 4,953

Building: \$ 9,800

Birthdays

Chris Solinsky 12/5

Parker Hutson 12/7

Jim Annis 12/8

Ed Eibe 12/11

Anniversaries

Brad & Sandra Morgan 12/5

Chris & Amy Solinsky 12/5

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www.abidingsavior.info – office@abidingsavior.info – 352-331-4409

If you would like to place an announcement in the Sunday Bulletin, please contact the office or email them to Office@abidingsavior.info no later than Wednesday mornings. Send your newsletter articles by the 25th of each month.