



Abiding Savior Lutheran Church

Gainesville, Florida

Third Sunday in Advent
December 17, 2023

Announcements and Reminders

Communion Statement

In accordance with the teachings of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, we believe and confess that in this Sacrament we receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ under the forms of bread and wine. Our gathering at the Table of the Lord is not a mere symbolic eating and drinking. Receiving the body and blood of Christ together at this Holy Table is confessing that we who here receive this Sacrament share this common belief. Such celebration of the Sacrament carries two pastoral concerns:

- That all communicants understand what God is giving to us in His Supper. The New Testament speaks of grave harm that will come upon anyone who does not “discern the Lord’s body” (1 Corinthians 11:29). We desire that you receive this gift to your good and never to your harm.
- Each one should be able to examine themselves and recognize their sin and need for God’s grace, lest we contradict Christ by sin against Him and sin against His people. In this Sacrament we are most fully at one with Christ and with one another, and so we should come to this Table at peace with Him and at peace with all our sisters and brothers.

Because communion at the table of our Lord is such a confession of common faith, worshipers who have a different understanding, or who hold a differing confession of faith, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament should first speak with an Elder or the Pastor before communing.

For those with health concerns, gluten-free wafers are available on request and non-alcoholic wine is available in the center cups of each communion tray. Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing by crossing their arms over their chest at the communion rail.

Sunday 9:45 a.m.

Pastor Glover’s Class: Pastor’s class is on hiatus until January 7, 2024.

Girl Friends Bible Study: The ladies’ Bible study meets in the Library between services.

Contact Linda at struck60@gmail.com or Debbie Hill at debbiehill@me.com for more information.

Girlfriends Sunday School class will study the Women of Christmas in December. Elizabeth on December 3, Mary on December 10. Anna on December 17. We will not meet on December 24 or 31.

Study the Bible On Book at a Time: Study with Chuck Moss in the Building 1 classroom. This group is currently studying the book of *John*. Contact Chuck_Moss@msn.com for more information.

Parents and Tots Sunday School: will meet in the Youth room of Building 3.

Midweek Advent Service will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday.

Christmas Eve Divine Services will be held at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. There will be one service Christmas Day at 11:00 a.m.

One Divine Service on the mornings of December 24 and December 31 at 10:45 a.m. with no breakfast or Bible Study.

Poinsettias: Purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone special. The cost is \$10 each. The sanctuary will be decorated with these flowers for Christmas Eve and you may take yours home after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service or after the Christmas Day service. Find order forms on the welcome table.

Christmas Dinner for All tonight at 5:00 p.m. All are invited to have Christmas Dinner in the Fellowship Hall. This dinner is free of charge and open to our Abiding Savior family and friends. Come and celebrate the birthday of our Savior with food, fellowship, music and a presentation of the Christmas story by our youth and young children. Please sign-up on the clipboard in the narthex so we can plan for food and seating.

The Music Ministry seeks new/beginner singers who want to learn to sing and become musically literate. The Schola Cantorum will be the premiere place for new and developing singers (ages 14 and up), so no experience is necessary. The Schola will meet at a time mutually doable for those who are interested. Please scan the QR code to sign up today! Class starts in January.



Youth meets every Sunday evening from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. If you or your child is interested in joining Youth activities, contact Danny Schmitt at Youth@abidingsavior.info or by phone at (352) 514-2371

*Join us This Christmas Season
At Abiding Savior!*

Wednesday Advent Services at 7:00 p.m. December 6, 13, & 20

Christmas Eve Divine Service at 4:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Service at 11:00 a.m.

December 24 Divine Service at 10:45 a.m.

December 31 Divine Service at 10:45 a.m.



+ Third Sunday in Advent +

The Advent Wreath

Advent, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming, is richly symbolized in the tradition of the Advent wreath. The circular wreath, an emblem of eternity, is made of various evergreens, signifying continuous life. The four candles on the wreath represent the four weeks of Advent, and one is lit each Sunday as a progressive testament to the light of God coming into the world.

The third candle, known as the Shepherd Candle or the Candle of Joy, represents the joy the shepherds felt upon finding the Savior. It is sometimes colored pink to represent a shift from repentance towards celebration. The Shepherd Candle glows brightly, a beacon of the joy that filled the first witnesses of Christ's birth. May its light fill our spirits with the exhilaration of the shepherds who stood under Bethlehem's star-filled sky.

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Stand

Opening Hymn: 563 Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

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

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

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

C Amen.

+ Confession and Absolution +

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

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

Confession of Sins

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+ Service of the Word +

Introit

Psalm 85:8–9, 12–13; antiphon: v. 7

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

Let me hear what God the | LORD will speak,*
for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to |
folly.

Surely his salvation is near to those who | fear him,*
that glory may dwell | in our land.

Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,*
and our land will yield its | increase.

Righteousness will go be- | fore him*
and make his foot- | steps a way.

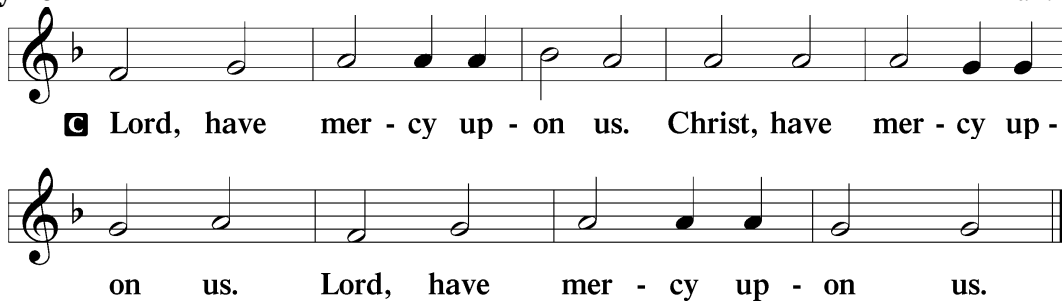
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Show us your steadfast love, | O LORD,*
and grant us your sal- | vation.

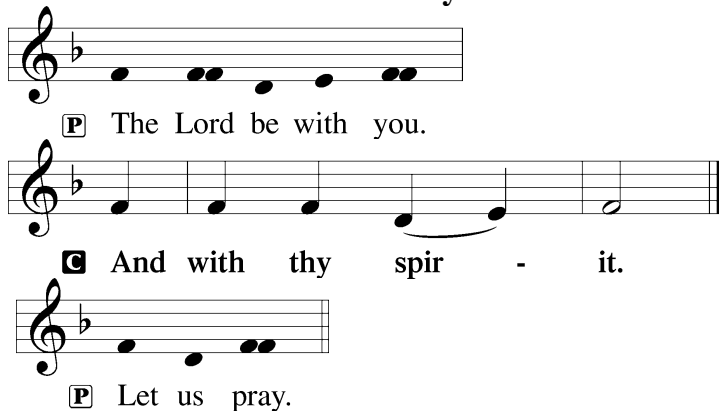
Kyrie

Mark 10:47



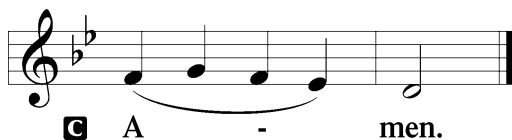
C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spir - it.
P Let us pray.

P Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C A - men.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor;
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
²to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations. . . .

⁸For I the LORD love justice;
I hate robbery and wrong;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹Their offspring shall be known among the nations,
and their descendants in the midst of the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge them,
that they are an offspring the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 126; antiphon: v. 5

⁵Those who | sow in tears*
shall reap with | shouts of joy!

¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of | Zion,*
we were like | those who dream.

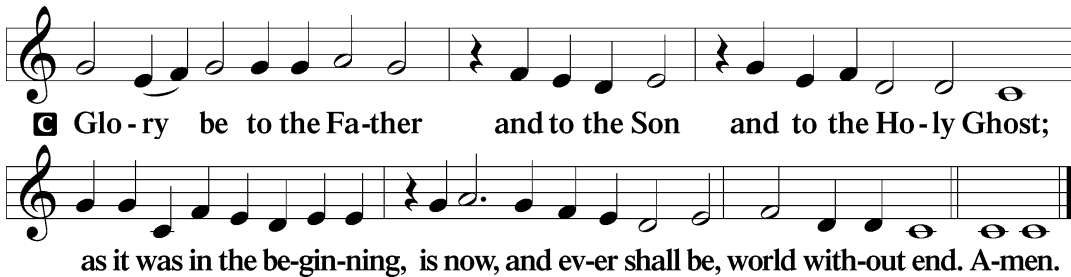
²Then our mouth was filled with | laughter,*
and our tongue with | shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The LORD has done great | things for them.”*

³The LORD has done great things for us; | we are glad.

⁴Restore our fortunes, | O LORD,*
like streams in the | Negeb!

⁵Those who | sow in tears*
shall reap with | shouts of joy!

⁶He who goes out weeping,
bearing the seed for | sowing,*
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his | sheaves with him.



G Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

⁵Those who | sow in tears*
shall reap with | shouts of joy!

Epistle

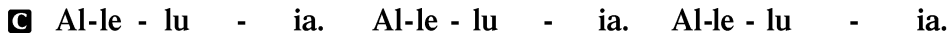
1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

²⁴He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

A This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Alleluia



John 1:6–8, 19–28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. . . .

¹⁹This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” ²²So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

²⁴(Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

²⁸These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

☩ 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 ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Tune: ODE TO JOY

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding!

“Christ is near,” we hear it say.

“Cast away the works of darkness,

All you children of the day!”

Startled at the solemn warning,

Let the earthbound soul arise;

Christ, its sun, all sloth dispelling,

Shines upon the morning skies.

See, the Lamb, so long expected,

Comes with pardon down from heav’n.

Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,

One and all, to be forgiv’n;

So, when next He comes in glory

And the world is wrapped in fear,

He will shield us with His mercy

And with words of love draw near.

Text: Latin, c. 5th–10th cent.; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Text: Public domain

Sermon

Votum

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C Amen.

Catechesis

Luther’s Small Catechism – The Eighth Commandment

P This is the Eighth Commandment:

C You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

P What does this mean?

C We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

Stand

Offertory

Psalm 51:10–12

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Sit

Gathering of Offerings & Prayer Requests

Voluntary

Reception of New Members (8:00)

*Linda Tuttle
Hunter Hyland*

Stand

Prayer of the Church

+ Service of the Sacrament +

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;

heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
 ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
 bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
 Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and 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.

The Words of Our Lord

Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

John 20:19



P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.



C A - men.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, have mer - cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that



tak - est a-way the sin of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the



world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sit

Distribution

Stand

The Dismissal

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

C Amen.

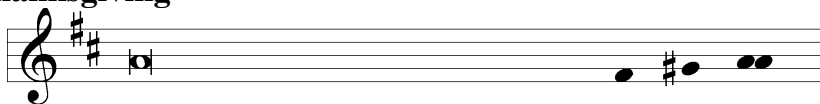
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32

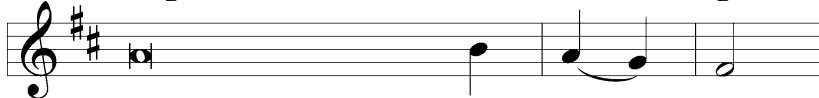
C Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac -
cord - ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men.

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1



A O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,



C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C** Amen.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22



P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1



A Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make
His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.
C A-men, a-men, a - men.

Closing Hymn: 357 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Postlude

ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Connecting Hearts to Jesus
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Rev. Graham B. Glover, Senior Pastor
Joshua L. Mazur, Director of Music Ministry

8:00 a.m. 10:45 a.m.

Elder of the month: Mike Brannon *Elder of the month:* Michael Arden

Reader: Phyllis Leone *Reader:* Liz Torrence

Last Week's Attendance

8:00 a.m.: 85

10:45 a.m.: 56

Total: 141

Last Week's Offering:

Total: \$ 2,961

Building Fund: \$ 0

Fiscal Year-to-Date

(7/1/23-12/10/23)

Average attendance: 130

Total offering: \$ 159,953

Avg. weekly offering: \$ 6,664

Total Building Fund: \$ 6,037*

**Note: Balance includes donations
to Safety & Security fund*

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

December 24: Fourth Sunday in Advent

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38



*Today's altar flowers
are provided by the
Mandeville Family.*



Birthdays

Natalie Petruska 12/17

Judy Bates 12/20

Paul Schubring 12/21

Anniversaries

Greg & Maria Claus 12/22



*Use the QR code
for electronic
offering options*

9700 W. Newberry Rd. Gainesville, FL. 32606

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.

ABIDING SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

Connecting Hearts to Jesus since 1991

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod



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