

# ***Abiding Peace Lutheran Church***

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Serena Rice, *pastor* • Benjamin Schroeder, *music director*



## **Advent I Midweek Service**

December 4, 2024

7:30 p.m.

**PRELUDE**  
Benediction

by Franz Schubert,  
arr. L. N. Porter

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

*P* The peace 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.**

**GATHERING LITANY**

*P* We live in a world that trades in isolation and comparison, competition and fear.

*C* **We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around, causing us to live in connection and compassion, mutual support and liberation.**

*P* We live in a world that races for money and success, that worships busyness and productivity, that hoards and consumes.

*C* **We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around so we will know that there is enough and that we are enough, and so that we can be still when we need rest.**

*P* We live in a world that tries to hide from death by pursuing eternal youth.

*C* **We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around and bring new life from places we would call dead and worthless.**

*P* We live in a world that is broken and hurting.

*C* **We are waiting for the One who will turn the world around to heal and comfort all people and teach us to see and value each other.**

*P* God, restore our hope in this time of watching and waiting. Give us a spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and might, knowledge and reverent trembling in your presence. Reveal to us that our stories are woven together, that we will be healed and whole when all people are fed and free. Gather us together in the shelter of your righteousness.

*C* **Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

There is a Longing in our Hearts ACS 1078

*Please stand, as able, and sing.*

*Refrain – All*



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

*Leader or All*



1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our



hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

*Refrain*

Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955

Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

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## THANKSGIVING FOR DARKNESS AND LIGHT

*P* The Lord be with you.

*C* **And also with you.**

*P* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*C* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*P* We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created light and darkness, day and night, and you set the sun, moon, and stars in the sky to govern all our hours. In a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day you led your people into freedom. Lead us in the darkness and the light by the presence of Christ, your Word. May your Spirit be a safe cover of darkness, like the darkness of rich soil sprouting seeds, or the womb that cradles new hope. May the Incarnate One be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for you are merciful, and you love your whole creation, and with all your creatures we give you glory, through your Son Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

*C* **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, reflection, and song.*

## THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF FLORILEGIA

*A medieval Christian practice called Florilegia (in Latin it means “gathering flowers”) is the act of gathering favorite words and phrases from a text like gathering flowers into a bouquet. In the seventh century, a French monk named Defensor called his gathering of favorite words and phrases The Book of Sparklets. In this season we will collect sparklets! As you listen, you are invited to underline or circle words, phrases, or whole verses that “sparkle” to you. Each reading will be read twice, When the reading ends, you will have the opportunity to write your sparklets onto paper flowers to be hung on our tree.*

## THE PSALM

**Psalm 25:1–25**

*The Psalm will be spoken responsively, by verse.*

- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- 2 **O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**
- 3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- 4 **Make me to know your ways, O Lord;  
teach me your paths.**
- 5 Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.
- 6 **Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.**
- 7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O  
Lord!
- 8 **Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**
- 9 He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.
- 10 **All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
do not let my enemies exult over me.**

## THE READING

**Isaiah 1:24-31**

*L* A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Therefore says the Sovereign, the Lord of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel:

Ah, I will pour out my wrath on my enemies, and avenge myself on my foes! I will turn my hand against you; I will smelt away your dross as with lye

and remove all your alloy. And I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those

in her who repent, by righteousness. But rebels and sinners shall be destroyed together, and those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed. For you shall be ashamed of the oaks in which you delighted; and you shall blush for the gardens that you have chosen. For you shall be like an oak

whose leaf withers, and like a garden without water. The strong shall become like tinder, and their work like a spark; they and their work shall burn together, with no one to quench them.

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

## SHARED REFLECTION

*After we transfer our chosen words or phrases onto the paper flowers, worshipers are invited to “gather our flowers together,” by speaking the words of hope, comfort, or challenge as we hang the flowers on the tree.*

## GOSPEL CANTICLE

## My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness **ELW 251**



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
 2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
 3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;



You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
 With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
 the prom - ise to our par - ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.



Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
 The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
 Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat  
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune  
 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress



great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*P* God for whom we watch and wait, we come with our prayers for your people, your whole creation, and the coming of your kingdom. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

*A* We pray for those who are lonely, fearful, or struggling to know their worth, that they would receive comfort . . . (*pause for spoken or silent prayer*). In your mercy,

**C** **come Lord Jesus.**

*A* We pray for those who do not have enough, that they would receive what they need, and for those who have too much, that they would find the joy of sharing what they have . . . (*pause for spoken or silent prayer*). In your mercy,

**C** **come, Lord Jesus.**

*A* We pray for those who face illness, pain, grief, or death, that they would be held in love throughout their struggles . . . (*pause for spoken or silent prayer*). In your mercy,

**C** **come, Lord Jesus.**

*A* We pray for creation, that your human children would treat it with reverence, gratitude, and care, and receive its life-giving gifts with grace . . . (*pause for spoken or silent prayer*). In your mercy,

**C** **come, Lord Jesus.**

*A* We pray that all your people, made in your image, will be stirred to embody your presence as we prepare for the transforming embodiment of your love in the birth of Jesus . . . (*pause for spoken or silent prayer*). In your mercy,

**C** **come, Lord Jesus.**

*A* We offer you these prayers in the name of the one who was, who is, and who is to come, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*P* The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*C* **And also with you.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*P* Precious 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.**

## SENDING

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

## THE BENEDICTION

*P* May God give you strength and courage to keep watch for the One who is coming. May God give us to one another so we remember we are not alone. May God give us to the world to prepare the way for the coming kingdom. In the name of the Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit..

*C* **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## SENDING HYMN

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death **ELW 452**

*All stand, as able, and sing.*



- 1 A - wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
- 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.





so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.  
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.  
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.  
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.  
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984

Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

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## DISMISSAL

*P* Go in peace. Practice hope.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

Aria Pastorella

by Valentin Rathgeber

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