# ALPS | Smith Credit Opportunities Fund

March 2025

An actively-managed, income-focused fund with the flexibility to pursue opportunities across the credit market





alpsfunds.com 1-866-759-5679

### Bond Yields Have Risen Significantly Over the Past 5 Years

### 100% 12% 10% 80% 8% 60% 6% 40% 4% 20% 2% 0%\_0 0%,0 0000 0Č High Yield Investment Grade High Yield Aggregate Bond Corporates Corporates

**Option-Adjusted Spread (OAS) as Percent of Yield** 

### High Yield and Aggregate Yield to Worst (YTW)

### For illustrative purposes only.

Source (left chart): Bloomberg, daily YTW for the Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Bond Index and Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index, October 1, 2019 - March 31, 2025

Source (right chart): Bloomberg, OAS as a percent of daily YTW for the Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Bond Index and Bloomberg US Corporate Bond Index, October 1, 2019 - March 31, 2025

### Past performance is no guarantee of future results and future investments have the potential for loss as well as profit.

### Potential risks in the fixed income market

- Impact on portfolio from interest rate changes.
- Widening credit spreads.
- When/how to allocate to the most attractive opportunities requires flexible positioning.

### Beyond Core - opportunities across the fixed income market

We believe that there are selective opportunities in the fixed income market to potentially provide both income and total return for investors. These include:

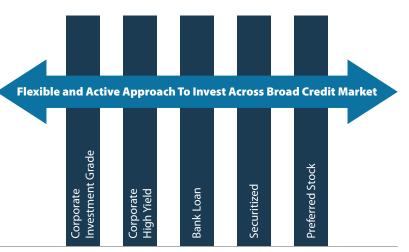
- Managing individual security selection for risk-adjusted returns and income.
- Companies managing debt load with potential for upgrades.
- Businesses that thrive in difficult economic environments.
- Securities with advantageous relative value.
- Bonds and bond-like securities that may not fit in a core bond portfolio.
- When to over/underweight investment grade vs high-yield bonds at individual security level.

Statements are based on opinions and beliefs of the Investment Team and may be based on subjective criteria.

### The ALPS | Smith Credit Opportunities Fund

#### A flexible, active approach to pursue opportunities across the fixed income market

Many income-oriented funds pursue a specific sector and/or benchmark, often with a static allocation framework. Rather than focus on a particular credit segment, the ALPS | Smith Credit Opportunities Fund utilizes an active and flexible approach to pursue opportunities throughout the fixed income market.



### A focus on long-term capital growth

- Actively managed asset allocation between corporate high yield and investment grade, preferred stock, securitized and bank loans.
- Individual security selection to balance yield/risk trade-off with focus on quality and fundamentals, seeking companies with improving balance sheets and cash flow to service debt.
- Risk-adjusted yield flexibility to manage risk and avoid "yield at all costs".
- Rigorous analytical evaluation and disciplined focus on risk.
- Morningstar Multisector Bond Fund Category.

## An active and dynamic approach with ability to position for market conditions

#### Sector Rotation and Overall Portfolio Positioning Methodology

**Overweight Credit** 

Underweight Duration	<ul> <li>Opportunistic Positioning</li> <li>Pessimistic but improving macroeconomic outlook</li> <li>Wide credit spreads, large break-evens</li> <li>Market pricing significant defaults and credit losses</li> <li>Advantageous capital markets, strong covenants</li> <li>Equity wealth creation via debt reduction</li> <li>Duration management shifting to more inflationary risk focus</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Neutral Positioning</li> <li>Stable macroeconomic outlook</li> <li>Credit spreads wide relative to risk</li> <li>Average break-evens</li> <li>General/Fair underwriting standards</li> <li>A balanced market, no consensus</li> <li>Fair historical leverage</li> <li>Capital markets in balance</li> <li>Active duration management balancing between capital preservation and inflationary risks</li> </ul>	Overweight Duration
	Infrequent Portfolio Positioning	<ul> <li>Defensive Positioning</li> <li>Optimistic but declining macroeconomic outlook</li> <li>Tight credit spreads, small break-evens</li> <li>Bullish, overly confident, complacent investment behavior</li> <li>Loose underwriting standards</li> <li>Deteriorating credit fundamentals</li> <li>Duration management focus shifting to capital preservation</li> </ul>	

**Underweight Credit** 

### Role in portfolio

The Fund seeks to obtain maximum risk-adjusted return with a secondary focus on high current income.

### Why Smith Capital Investors?

The team at Smith Capital Investors is committed to building an income-focused, investment-centric firm with a solid foundation in fundamental analysis. Our process is centered on performance, relationships and investing excellence.

- We believe that an actively managed, fundamentally driven investment process leads to consistent performance.
- Culture is central to our success, and people of high character are our primary differentiator. We are a private, independent firm, focused on building lasting partnerships.
- Our investing process has deep roots in fundamental research, underpinned by the use of technology and rigorous quantitative validation.
- Over \$5.7 billion\* in fixed income strategies.

### Experienced team



### Gibson Smith\*\*

#### Portfolio Manager, Founder of Smith Capital Investors

Gibson founded Smith Capital Investors with a desire to bring outstanding people together to build a business that focuses on people and investing. He founded the firm on the belief that we are investors first and foremost and seek to be the best. Underlying the pursuit is hard work, dedication, and persistence. The firm centers around three key drivers – investing, people, and culture. Everything we do, say, and pursue will have to pass the test of these key drivers.

Gibson has over 30 years of investment experience. He previously served as Chief Investment Officer, Fixed Income, of Janus Capital Management LLC, a position he had held from January 2006 through March 2016. In that position, Gibson was also a member of the Janus Executive Committee and Portfolio Manager of Janus Fixed Income strategies.

Education: B.A. Economics, University of Colorado



### Eric Bernum,\*\* CFA Portfolio Manager, Investor, Smith Capital Investors

Education: B.S. Finance, Colorado State University

21 years industry experience



### Jonathan Aal Portfolio Manager, Investor, Smith Capital Investors

Education: B.S. Finance and Accounting, University of Colorado

12 years industry experience



#### Garrett Olson, CFA Portfolio Manager, Investor, Smith Capital Investors

Education: B.A. Business Administration and B.S. Economics, Southern Methodist University

14 years industry experience

\* Smith Capital Investors manage \$5.709 billion in AUM as of March 31, 2025.

\*\* Gibson Smith and Eric Bernum are Registered Representatives of ALPS Distributors, Inc.

### Fund Details

Inception Date	9/15/2020
Net Assets	\$149.31MM
Effective Duration	4.72 years
Years to Maturity	8.71
Yield to Worst	6.55
Yield to Maturity	6.71
Benchmark	50% Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond / 50% Bloomberg US Corporate HY Bond Index

### Fund Yields

	30-Day SEC Yield	30-Day SEC Yield (Unsubsidized)	Trailing Twelve Month Yield
Class I	5.73%	5.54%	5.61%
Inv Class	5.69%	5.54%	5.33%
Class A	5.56%	5.45%	5.38%
Class C	4.73%	4.62%	4.61%

Performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. The investment return and principal value will fluctuate. Current performance may be higher or lower than the performance quoted. For current month-end performance call 1-866-759-5679 or visit www.alpsfunds.com. Performance includes reinvested distributions and capital gains.

Maximum Offering Price (MOP) performance for Class A shares includes the Fund's maximum sales charge of 2.25%.

Contingent Deferred Sales Charge (CDSC) performance for Class C shares includes a 1% CDSC on shares redeemed within 12-months of purchase. Performance shown at Net Asset Value (NAV) does not include these sales charges and would have been lower had it been taken into account.

- <sup>+</sup> Fee imposed on purchases.
- <sup>+</sup> A percentage of the lower of original purchase price or redemption proceeds.
- \*\* What You Pay reflects the Adviser's and Sub-Adviser's decision to contractually limit expenses through 2/28/2026. Please see the prospectus for additional information.

### Performance as of 3/31/2025

	Cumulative		Annualized			
Total Returns	1 M	3 M	YTD	1 Y	3 Y	SI
Class I (Net Asset Value)	-0.68%	1.39%	1.39%	5.28%	2.71%	2.41%
Investor Class (Net Asset Value)	-0.69%	1.36%	1.36%	5.35%	2.78%	2.34%
Class A (Net Asset Value)	-0.68%	1.38%	1.38%	5.39%	2.60%	2.23%
Class A (MOP)	-2.89%	-0.91%	-0.91%	3.02%	1.81%	1.72%
Class C (Net Asset Value)	-0.77%	1.15%	1.15%	4.24%	1.69%	1.38%
Class C (CDSC)	-1.76%	0.15%	0.15%	3.24%	1.69%	1.38%
Benchmark	-0.49%	1.89%	1.89%	6.29%	2.76%	1.65%



### Identifiers and Fees

	Class I	Inv Class	Class A	Class C		
Identifiers						
Ticker	SMCRX	SMCVX	SMCAX	SMCCX		
CUSIP	31761T803	31761T506	31761T605	31761T704		
Shareholder Fees (fees paid directly from your investment)						
Maximum Sales Charge (Load) <sup>+</sup>	None	None	2.25%	None		
Maximum Deferred Sales Charge <sup>‡</sup>	None	None	None	1.00%		
<b>Annual Fund Operating Expenses</b> (expenses you pay each year as a percentage of the value of your investment)						
Total Operating Expenses	1.01%	1.26%	1.25%	1.94%		
What You Pay^^	0.90%	1.20%	1.20%	1.90%		

### Important Disclosures & Definitions

#### An investor should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses carefully before investing. This material must be preceded or accompanied by the prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully before investing.

Performance data quoted represents past performance. Past performance is no quarantee of future results; current performance may be higher or lower than performance quoted.

All investments are subject to risks, including the loss of money and the possible loss of the entire principal amount invested. Additional information regarding the risks of this investment is available in the prospectus.

*The characteristics presented reflect trade date + 1 information.* 

A rise in interest rates typically causes bond prices to fall. The longer the duration of the bonds held by a fund, the more sensitive it will likely be to interest rate fluctuations.

The Fund's investments in fixed-income securities and positions in fixed-income derivatives may decline in value because of changes in interest rates. As nominal interest rates rise, the value of fixed-income securities and any long positions in fixed-income derivatives held by the Fund are likely to decrease, whereas the value of its short positions in fixed-income derivatives is likely to increase.

Overall securities market risks may affect the value of individual instruments in which the Fund invests. Factors such as domestic and foreign economic growth and market conditions, interest rate levels, and political events affect the securities and derivatives markets. When the value of the Fund's investments goes down, your investment in the Fund decreases in value and you could lose money.

30-Day SEC Yield: reflects the dividends and interest earned during the period, after the deduction of the Fund's expenses.

30-Day SEC Yield (Unsubsidized): reflects the dividends and interest earned during the period, after the deduction of the Fund's expenses, excluding fee waivers.

Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index: a broad-based benchmark that measures the investment grade, US dollar-denominated, fixed-rate taxable bond market. The index includes Treasuries, government-related and corporate securities, fixed-rate agency MBS, ABS and CMBS (agency and non-agency).

Bloomberg US Corporate Bond Index: measures the investment grade, fixed-rate, taxable corporate bond market.

Bloomberg US Corporate High Yield Bond Index: measures the USD-denominated, high yield, fixed-rate corporate bond market.

High-Yield Bond Risk: debt securities issued by companies with less certain prospects and a greater probability of default. These bonds are inherently more risky than bonds issued by more credit-worthy companies, but with greater risk also comes greater potential for return.

Investment Grade (IG): a rating that signifies that a municipal or corporate bond presents a relatively low risk of default. To be considered an investment grade issue, the company must be rated at 'BBB' or higher by Standard and Poor's or Moody's. Anything below this 'BBB' rating is considered non-investment grade.

Option-Adjusted Spread (OAS): the spread measures the difference in the yields of two debt instruments with different characteristics such as maturities or credit ratings. "Option-adjusted" refers to inclusion of call provisions in the securities, shortening their maturities.

Trailing Twelve Month Yield: refers to the percentage of income a portfolio has returned to investors over the last 12 months. Past performance is no quarantee of future results.

Years to Maturity: the period during which an investor will receive interest payments on the investment. When the bond reaches maturity, the investor is repaid its par, or face, value.

Yield to Maturity: the percentage rate of return for a bond assuming that the investor holds the asset until its maturity date. It is the sum of all of its remaining coupon payments. A bond's yield to maturity rises or falls depending on its market value and how many payments remain to be made.

Yield to Worst (YTW): a measure of the lowest possible yield that can be received on a bond that fully operates within the terms of its contract without defaulting.

One may not invest directly in an index.

ALPS Advisors, Inc. and Smith Capital Investors, LLC, registered investment advisers with the SEC, are the investment adviser and sub-adviser to the Fund, respectively. ALPS Advisors, Inc., ALPS Distributors, Inc. and ALPS Portfolio Solutions Distributor, Inc., affiliated entities, are unaffiliated with Smith Capital Investors, LLC.

ALPS Portfolio Solutions Distributor, Inc. is the distributor for the Fund.

Not FDIC Insured • No Bank Guarantee • May Lose Value

SMT001318 8/31/2025



ALPS ADVISORS



alpsfunds.com 1-866-759-5679