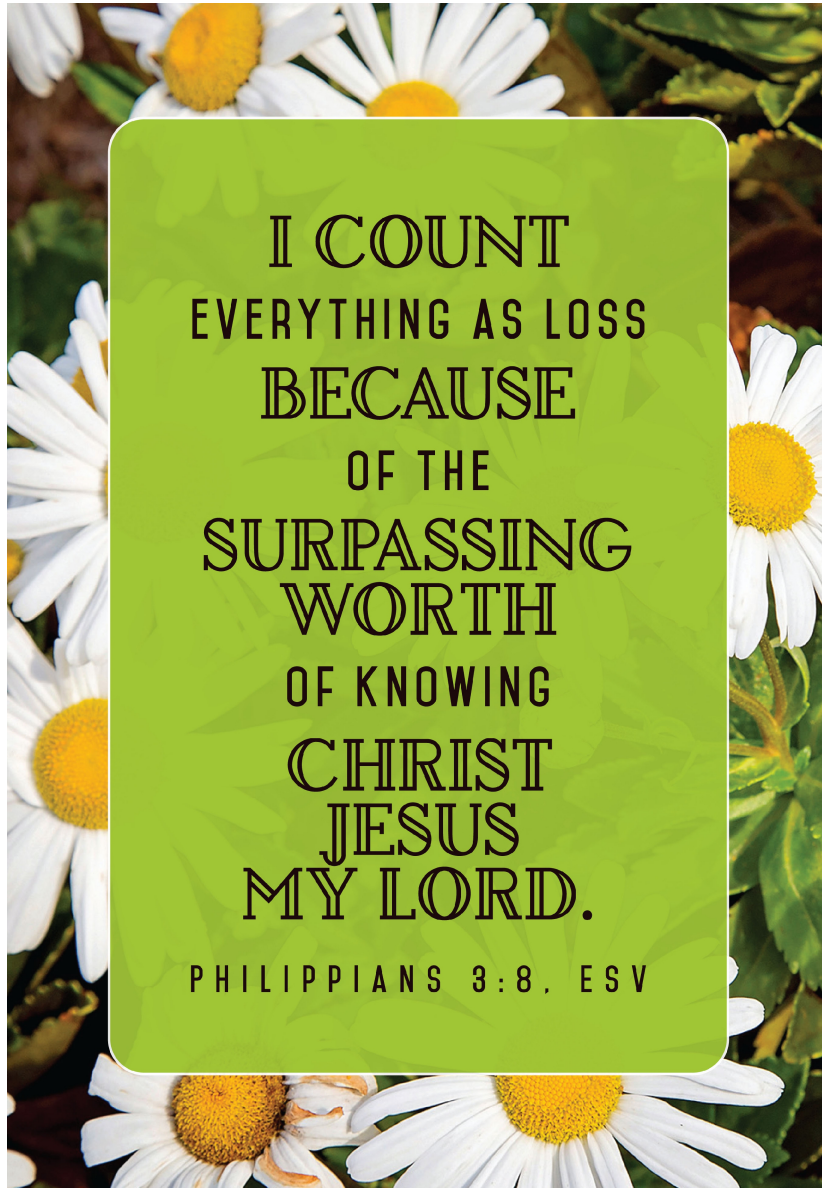


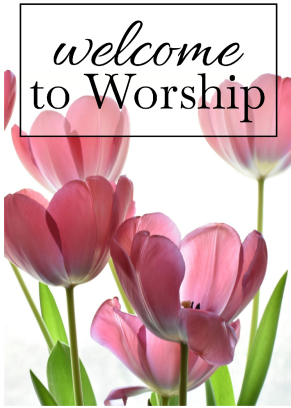
Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, April 6, 2025



*"Touched by the Gospel, we see to be instruments of God's Peace,
for the sake of the World."*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
1747 W. Milham Avenue ♦ Portage, MI 49024
Pastor Rachel Laughlin
Church phone: 269/343-3453 ♦ fax: 269/343-2025
Website: popportage.org
Prayer-mail: prayer@popportage.org
Find us on Facebook: *Prince of Peace, Portage, MI-ELCA*



Welcome in the name of Christ

Worshiping with kids?

- ❖ We love having people of all ages and abilities worshiping together!
 - ❖ There is a family restroom in the Gathering Space and a changing table in the nursery to accommodate your family's needs.
 - ❖ The nursery is staffed from 10-12 on Sundays. You can drop your youngster off before worship begins or at any time during the service.
 - ❖ Children are invited forward during the Children's sermon, where they can hear the bible story told in words and context they can understand. Older siblings and other friends are welcome to accompany children if that would make them more comfortable.
- ❖ Children's bibles are available in the pews, and ushers can provide children's bulletins upon request.
 - ❖ Wiggles and noise are welcome! If your child needs more room to move, feel free to take them to the Playground in the Gathering Space. This area is stocked with quiet activities, coloring pages, and kid-sized furniture. This is also a great spot to enjoy refreshments after the conclusion of the worship service!

Wondering about communion?

- ❖ We believe Christ is fully present in the meal and it is Christ who invites us to share it.
- ❖ All are welcome to share communion with us regardless of age or faith tradition.
- ❖ Gluten free bread and wafers, wine, and grape juice are available.

Want to know more about our community?

- ❖ We strive to be an open, welcoming place for all people.
- ❖ Pastor Rachel enjoys meeting people after worship but never wants anyone to feel pressured to talk to her. Come say hi!
- ❖ Visit the welcome table in the gathering space if you have questions about Lutherans, the Christian faith, or Prince of Peace; if you have a specific prayer request, or want to share your contact information so we can get back to you about something in particular.

Thank you for joining us for worship today. May God bless you and give you peace this week.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Worshippers responses in bold.

Music for the Beginning of Worship

Welcome

Stand

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

All: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Compassionate One,

All: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✠ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"As We Gather at Your Table"

No. 522

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

The Children's Sermon

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Isaiah 43:16-21

Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 126

Reader: When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

All: The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed.

Reader: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negeb. Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy.

All: Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Second Reading

Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Lis - ten to the word which God has spo - ken;

3
lis - ten to the One who is close at hand;

5
lis - ten to the voice be - hind cre - a - tion;

7
lis - ten e - ven if you don't un - der - stand.

Gospel Reading

John 12:1-8

The Holy Gospel according to John the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sit

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Laughlin

Stand

Hymn of the Day

"Holy Woman, Graceful Giver: Mark 14"

No. 1001

vs. 1 - choir, vs. 2, 3, 4 - All



1 Ho - ly wom - an, grace - ful giv - er, proph - et,
2 Like the ves - sel, we are bro - ken; like the
3 In these jars is hid - den trea - sure, cost - ly
4 Ho - ly wom - an, cost - ly trea - sure, with the



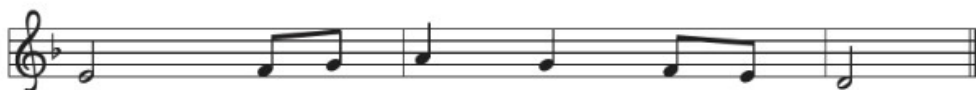
ser - vant, and be - liev - er, wom - an with the oint - ment
oint - ment, we are to - ken of God's lov - ing un - to
fra - grance, Christ - ly plea - sure, like the Christ, first from the
jar of al - a - bas - ter, shows the hid - den gift we



jar, rose up near the time ap - point - ed, broke the
death; like the wom - an, we are serv - ing; like the
dead, bro - ken for cre - a - tion's whole - ness, poured out
are; there - fore let us as Christ's ser - vants hold our



seal, Christ's head a - noint - ed for the com - ing fa - tal
scold - ers, ill - de - serv - ing such a rich, for - giv - ing
for its com - ing full - ness, Proph - et, Ser - vant, Hope, and
sis - ter in re - mem - brance, wom - an with the oint - ment



hour, for the com - ing fa - tal hour.
faith, such a rich, for - giv - ing faith.
Head, Proph - et, Ser - vant, Hope, and Head.
jar, wom - an with the oint - ment jar.

Nicene Creed

Asst: Joining with the saints of every time and place, we confess our faith:

All: **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 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 the Church

Lay me low, where the Lord can find me. Lay me low, where the Lord can hold me. Lay me low, where the Lord can bless me. Lay me low, Lord, lay me low.

*After "Generous God," worshipers respond "Pour out your Love."
Repeat "Lay Me Low" after the completion of the intercessory prayers.*

WE SHARE IN HIS MEAL

Sharing the Peace

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

*Worshipers share a sign of God's peace with one another,
greeting each other with words like "Peace be with you. . .and also with you"*

Sit

Offering

Please **date** and complete the fellowship registration pad

Anthem

“A Woman Who Did Not Count the Cost”

Text: Richard Leach, Scottish Trad

*A woman came who did not count the cost of doing what she could.
She broke an alabaster flask, and sweetness spilled on Jesus' head.
O God, you are the Anointing One who does not count your passion's cost,
And when we gather you will spill the sweetness of your grace on us.
Some only saw what she had spent, "Why such a waste with poor to feed?"
They served the poor well with their tongues! but she had done a lovely deed.
O God, you are....
You give as she, surprisingly, you give with beauty as she gave.
You give as she, not holding back, you make us Christ-like with your love.
O God, you give. . . .*

Stand

Offering Response

“O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts ”
vs. 1

No. 658

Liturgical Hand Washing

*I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds. - Psalm 26:6-7*

Offering Prayer

Asst: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Stand

Great Thanksgiving - Grace Before the Meal

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: . . . and join in their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy, Holy

5
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow-er and might, God's
glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, God of pow-er and might.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow-er and might, God's' are written below the first staff. The second staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody starts on a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The lyrics 'glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, God of pow-er and might.' are written below the second staff. A small number '5' is written above the first staff.

Cantor: Long, long ago in Jerusalem, as the scriptures do record. Isaiah to the temple came to see the holy Lord. **Refrain sung by All**

High on a throne sat the mighty Lord, robes flowing through the hall, while six-winged angels flew above. Isaiah heard the call. **Refrain sung by All**

Oh, what a sight it was to see and oh, what a sound to hear! The temple doorposts shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air. **Refrain sung by All**

Eucharistic Prayer

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the priceless grace you have bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ, who died upon the tree of Calvary and rose again to make us living branches, drawing our life from him and bearing fruit in all the world. Send your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth and power, to renew our faith as we receive our crucified and risen Lord who comes to us in his body and blood.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: With the confidence of the children of God, we are bold to pray:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Meal

Pastor: If you desire to receive what God offers, come to this Table. Come with your faith and your doubt. Come with your questions and your hopes. Come with your grief and your love. Come taste the Lord's goodness. There is room for you here because this is Christ's table. You are welcome.

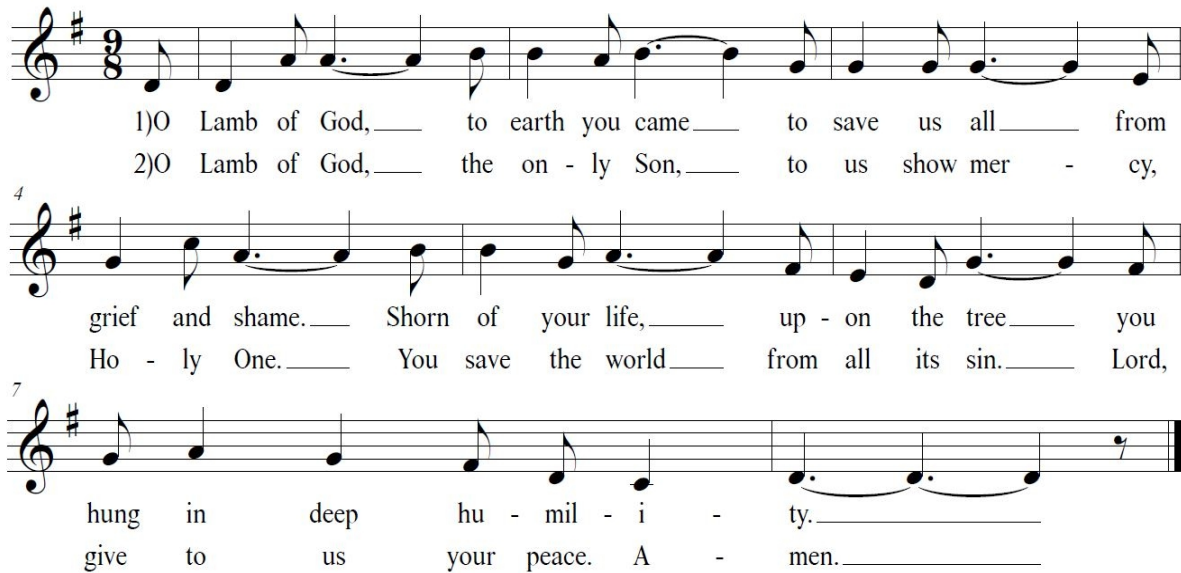
Sit

Holy Communion - the Lord's Supper

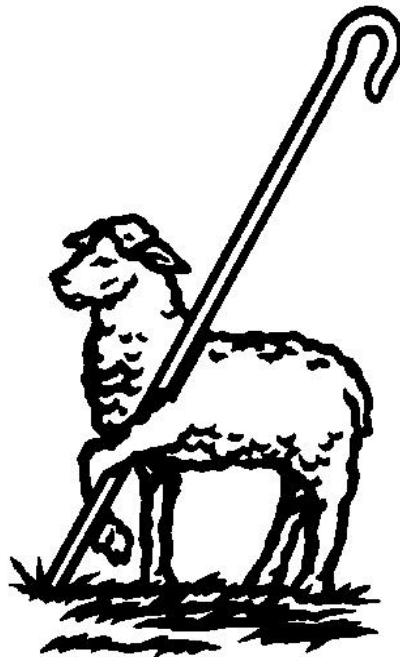
All are welcome at Christ's table regardless of age or membership status. All communion servers will have sanitized their hands before handling the communion elements. Ushers will direct you to come forward. The pastor and assisting minister will distribute the bread (gluten-free) and the other servers will distribute the wine (red) or grape juice (white). Individually packaged gluten free wafers and sets of completely sealed elements (wheat wafer and grape juice) are available on the stands near the bread distributors. You may pick one of those up yourself, if you prefer. You may place your empty cup in the baskets on the tables as you return to your seat.

If you would prefer not to receive communion, you are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate your preference to the servers.

Lamb of God



1) O Lamb of God, to earth you came to save us all from
2) O Lamb of God, the on - ly Son, to us show mer - cy,
grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up - on the tree you
Ho - ly One. You save the world from all its sin. Lord,
hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
give to us your peace. A - men.





1 When it seems the day will end, and all
 2 When it seems the day will end, sink - ing
 3 When it seems the day will end, and a



light gives way to fear, we will speak your name a -
 low un - der our skin, we are dead and born a -
 cold - ness fills our bones, we will walk the way you've



gain to re - mind us you are here.
 gain, and with you now en - ter in.
 been, and our hearts will be your home.

Refrain



New life ris - ing, New life ris - ing, ash - es fall - ing, ash - es fall - ing,



joy and weep - ing, joy and weep - ing, in your call - ing. in your call - ing.



May
those who
 sow in tears
reap
 with shouts of joy.

Psalm 126:5, NRSV

"Guide My Feet"

ACS No. 987



Leader

1 Guide my feet
 2 Hold my hand
 3 Stand by me while I run this race.
 4 I'm your child
 5 Search my heart

All



Guide my feet
 Hold my hand
 Stand by me while I run this race.
 I'm your child
 Search my heart



Guide my feet
 Hold my hand
 Stand by me while I run this race,
 I'm your child
 Search my heart



for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Table Blessing

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

Asst: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Sending of Communion

Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent.

Pastor: Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are *sick/homebound/imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO OUT TO SERVE

Announcements

Worshipers are invited to share announcements not listed in the weekly Peace Proclamations: blessings: like anniversaries, birthdays, births or new jobs, prayer concerns and answered prayers. So that all present on person and livestreaming can see and hear you, **come up the ramp to the chancel then go to the pulpit to give your announcement.**

Stand

Final Blessing

Pastor: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“God’s Work, Our Hands”

ACS No. 1000



1 God’s work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God’s work, our feet: trav - ’ling to - geth - er,
3 God’s work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread’s on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - ’ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God’s fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God’s love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God’s love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



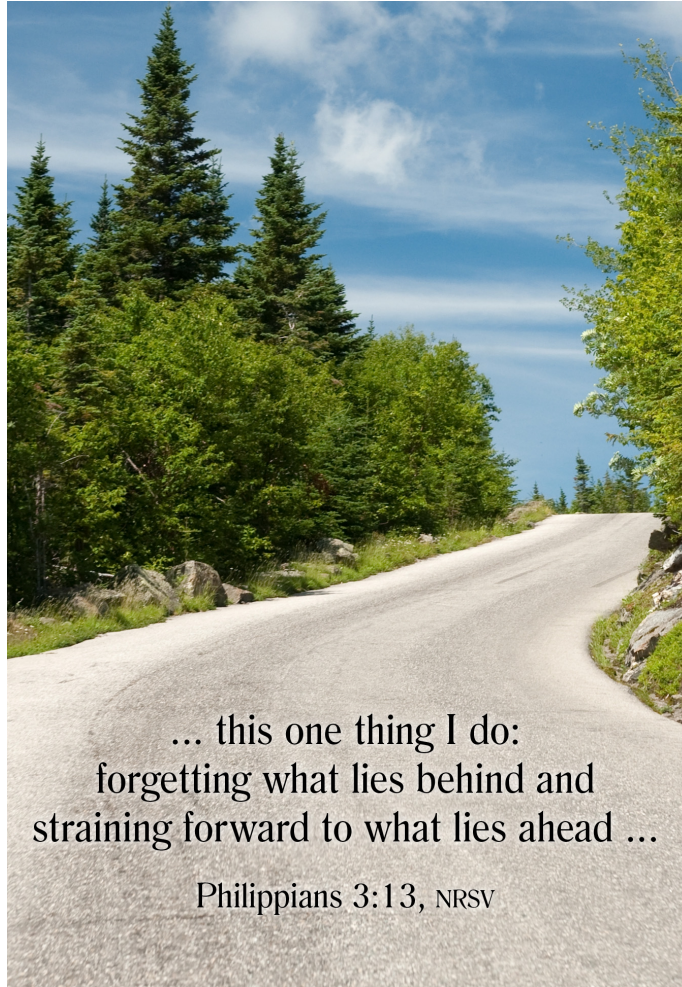
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Dismissal

Asst: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

All: Thanks be to God.

Music for the Close of Worship



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Holy, Holy, Holy, Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, Music: *Shady Grove*. Trad. Appalachian©1990, 2013 Augsburg Fortress.

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O Lamb of God to Earth You Came, Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, Music: *The Suffolk Miracle*. Trad. Appalachian©1990, 2013 Augsburg Fortress.

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Today's Servers

April 6, 2025

Worship Asst.: Claudia Lee
Acolytes:
Reader: Karen Adams
Ushers: Lee Banitt
Technology: Jackson Seguin, Paul Swodzinski,
Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Randi Martin
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov
Communion Assts.: Beth Whately
Altar Guild: Carol Christianson
Fellowship: The Coopers
Nursery: Sheryl Swodzinski
Church Lockup: Laurie Brown
Mowers: Bill Hellman, Dale Holder

Next Week's Servers

April 13, 2025



Worship Asst.: Em Witteveen
Acolytes:
Reader: Leah Deming
Ushers: Greg Guthrie, Lee Banitt
Technology: Mark Clyne, Paul Guthrie,
Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Laurie Brown
Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson
Communion Assts.: Jenny Deming
Altar Guild: Linda Timm
Fellowship: Idy Stemaly
Nursery:
Church Lockup: Jenny Deming
Mowers: Pete Eldridge, Karl Klemm

Use this QR code to donate online to
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
and it's ministries.
See the Peace Proclamations for more details.



Hearing Aid Compatible Assistive Listening System



1. Use this  QR code connect to the "pop_listen" Wi-fi network.
2. Use this QR  Code to download the *Listen Everywhere* app, either from the Apple Store or the Google Play Store.



3. On your phone go to your settings. Tap on Connections, tap on Wi-fi, look for the "pop_listen" network and tap on it.

4. Then find your "Listen Everywhere" app, open it and tap on "POP Service"

5. After that you should be receiving audio in your hearing aids. If you need assistance, see an Usher.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Staff

Church phone: 269/343-3453

Staff

Pastor: Rachel Laughlin-ext. 13

Administrative Asst: Tamara Preston-ext. 10

Accountant: Marilyn Storch-ext. 17

Technology Manager: Mike Whately-ext. 15

Engagement: Em Witteveen-ext. 12

Music Director: Janet Hill

Custodian: Steve Haddix

Nursery: Melissa Copeland

Care Team Email: prayer@popportage.org

Holy Week

When we join Christians around the world to enter into the story of our salvation more deeply, following Jesus through death to new life.



Palm Sunday *April 13* *10:30 AM*

We mark Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem to complete the work of our salvation. We hear the passion narrative of Jesus' suffering, death, and burial for our sakes.

After worship, we will celebrate with Palm Sundaes and Palm Crosses!

Maundy Thursday *April 17* *7:00 PM*

We begin the Three Days, a single movement that unfolds over three worship services tonight, Good Friday, and at the Easter Vigil. This night, we remember Jesus' command to love one another.

Good Friday *April 18* *7:00 PM*

Our journey with Jesus continues as we hear the passion narrative once more. We honor the cross of Christ as the sign of forgiveness, healing, and salvation.

Easter Vigil *April 19* *7:00 PM*

To celebrate Christ's passage from death to life, we gather around strong signs of our faith: new fire in darkness, light spreading from the light of Christ, the great stories of salvation from the Hebrew Scriptures, the water and Word of baptism, and the first resurrection meal.

Easter Sunday *April 20* *8:00 AM and 10:30 AM*
enhanced Fellowship between services

We continue the celebration of Christ's resurrection with communion and special music.