

Second Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 27, 2025



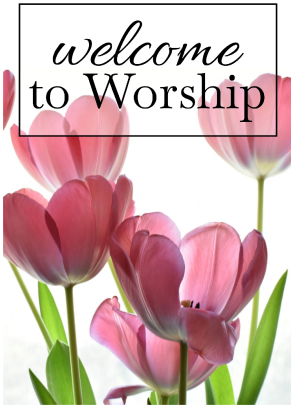
be with you.
As the Father has
sent me,
so I send you."

John 20:21, NRSV

*"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!



Worshipping with kids?

- ❖ We love having people of all ages and abilities worshipping 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

Stand

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Pastor: In the name of ☩ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Pastor: Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

All: make us one as you are one.

Pastor: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

All: make us one as you are one.

Pastor: We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit's power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

All: make us one as you are one.

Pastor: Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"The Day of Resurrection!"

No. 361

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The grace of our risen 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: O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit's breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of 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 THE LORD

First Reading

Acts 5:27-32

When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us." But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms

Psalms 118:14-29

Reader: The Lord is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation. Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

All: The right hand of the Lord is exalted! The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!" I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. The Lord indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.

Reader: Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.

All: "This is the gate of the Lord; here the righteous may enter." I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.

Reader: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. By the Lord has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.

All: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Reader: Hosanna! O Lord, save us! We pray to you, Lord, prosper our days!

All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord; we bless you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God and has given us light. Form a procession with branches up to the corners of the altar.

Reader: You are my God, and I will thank you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

All: Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good; God's mercy endures forever.

Second Reading

Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to John the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Pastor James Morgan

Stand

Hymn of the Day

"We Walk by Faith"

No. 635

Apostle's Creed

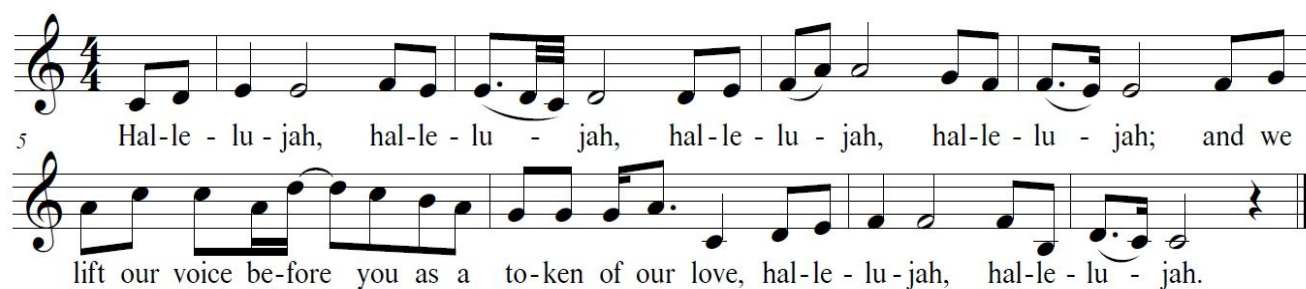
Asst: Joining the saints of every time and place, we confess our faith:

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church



*After "Risen Lord," worshipers respond "**Pour out your love.**"
Repeat "**Hallelujah**" after 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*

Offering Response

*"Alleluia! Christ Is Arisen"
Stand for last verse.*

No. 375

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: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

All: **Amen.**

Stand


The Great Thanksgiving

Presider: *Congregation:*




The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

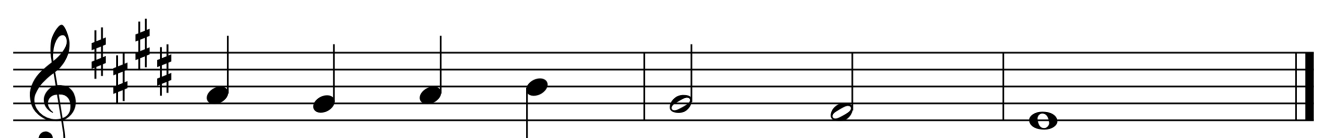


Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is



right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God through Jesus Christ who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Pastor: 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 to you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it 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: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 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 gluten-free bread and 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 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 stands as you return to your seat.

If you 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) Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
2) Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and
world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on
peace: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on
us.
us.
3) Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the
world: grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

"As the Grains of Wheat"

No. 465

"Now the Green Blade Rises"

No. 379

Table Blessing

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

All: Amen.

Asst: Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

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 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: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

All: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia”

No. 364

vs. 1, 4, 5

Dismissal

Asst: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

Asst: God in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Music for the Close of Worship

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Holy, Holy vs. 5, text & music: Jimmy Owens. 1979 Bud John Songs, Inc. Permission under OneLicense Annual License #A-710485

Great Thanksgiving, Agnus Dei, Sanctus, Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

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This Week's Servers

April 27, 2025

Worship Asst.: Lisa Creed
Acolytes:
Reader: Beth Whately
Ushers: Greg Guthrie, Kay Kincaid
Technology: Mark Clyne, Jackson Seguin, Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Laurie Brown
Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson
Communion Assts.: Cindy & Noel Sederstrom
Altar Guild: Verity Poisson
Fellowship: Gail MacNellis
Nursery: Megan Zimmerman
Church Lockup: John Thommen
Mowers: Steve Creed, Tom Palarz

Next Week's Servers

May 4, 2025


Worship Asst.:
Acolytes:
Reader: Steve Haddix
Ushers: Ron & Erin Leversee
Technology: Jackson Seguin, Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Jan Ellwitz
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov
Communion Assts.: Karen Adams, Claudia Lee
Altar Guild: Dorothy Tisland
Fellowship: Claudia Lee
Nursery:
Church Lockup: Mary Clyne
Mowers: Bill Hellman, Greg Hannemann


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

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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