

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 28, 2025



THE LORD WATCHES OVER THE FOREIGNER AND SUSTAINS THE FATHERLESS AND THE WIDOW.

PSALM 146:9, NIV

*"Touched by the Gospel, we seek 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

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 9-12 on Sundays. You can drop your youngster off before faith formation or at any time during these hours.
- ❖ 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

"Aria"

arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

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, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Pastor: Merciful God,

All: we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

Pastor: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

All: Amen.

Gathering Song

“Let Streams of Living Justice ”

No. 710

Greeting

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.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sit

The Children's Sermon

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.

Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music, who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 146

Reader: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

All: Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help. When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

Reader: Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God; who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever; who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The Lord sets the captive free.

All: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

Reader: The Lord cares for the stranger; the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

All: The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

1 Timothy 6:6-19

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time – he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

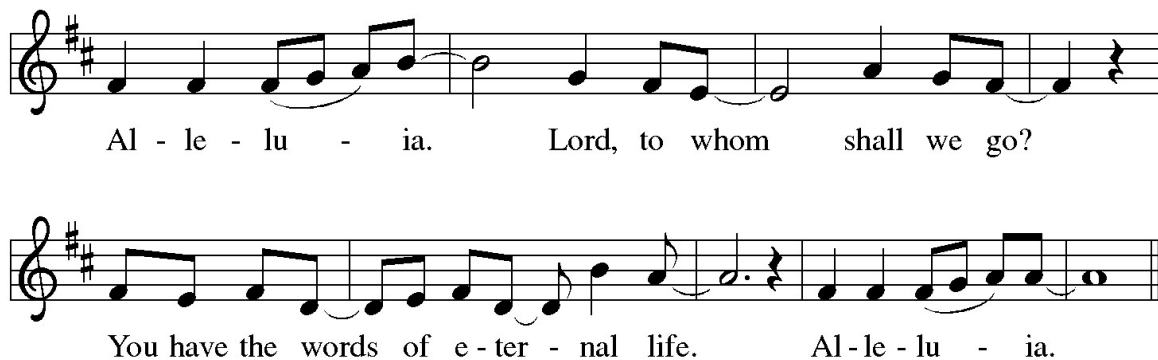
As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading

Luke 16:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’”

Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' He said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit
Sermon

Pastor Rachel Laughlin

Stand
Hymn of the Day

"Canticle of the Turning"

No. 723

Apostles' Creed

Asst: With the whole church, 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

Sung twice before and after

Optional descant

Feed us jus - tice. Feed us your peace.

Feed us with hun-ger for jus-tice. Feed us with thirst for peace.

*After "Generous God," worshipers respond "Pour out your love."
Repeat "Feed Us with Hunger for Justice" 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.

Temple Talk

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: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Stand

Great Thanksgiving - Grace Before the Meal

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

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

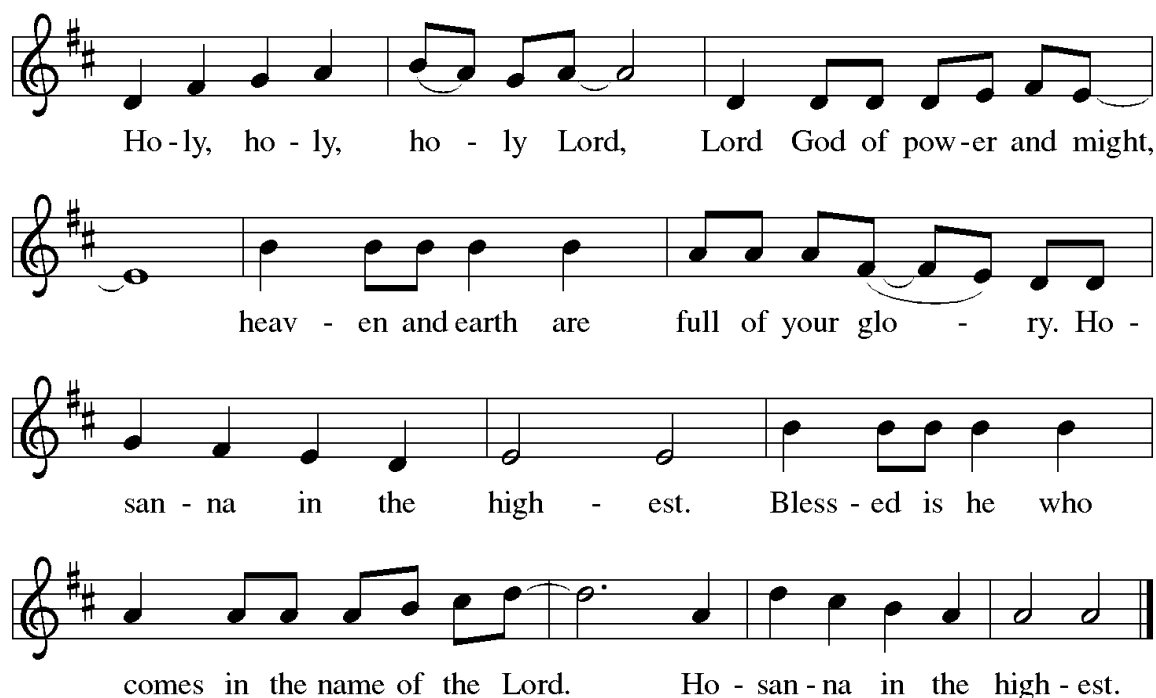
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



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.

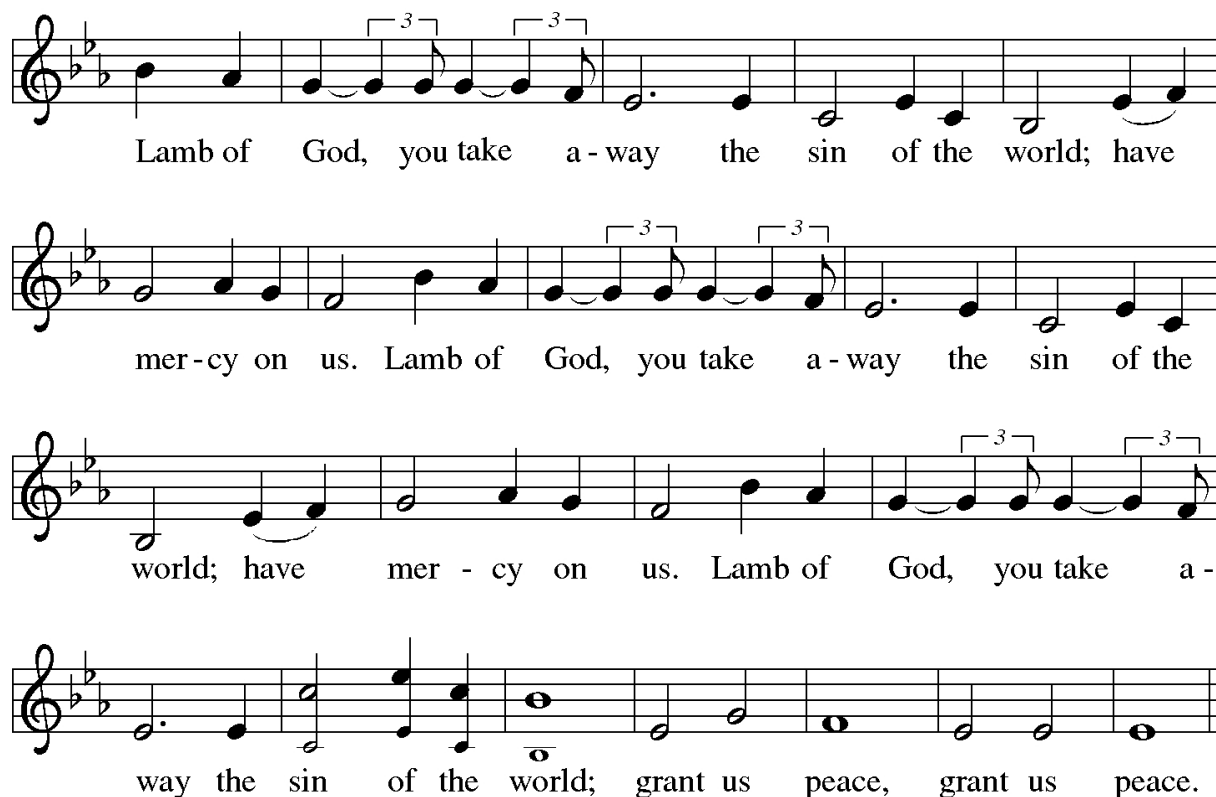
Sit

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 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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

"We Come to the Hungry Feast"

No. 479

"Christ, Be Our Light"

No. 715

Table Blessing

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

All: Amen.

Asst: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

Sending of Communion

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

Pastor: O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table with our siblings who are *sick/homebound/imprisoned*. May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Sit

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 God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

No. 705

Dismissal

Asst: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Music for the Close of Worship

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

arr. Paul Manz



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This Week's Servers

September 28, 2025

Worship Asst.: Claudia Lee
Reader: Dale Gatz
Ushers: Pete Eldridge, Dave Snyder
Technology: Paul Swodzinski, Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Karen Adams
Sacristy Asst.: Marilyn Storch
Communion Assts.: Sandy Foster, Jolaine Snyder
Altar Guild: Gail MacNellis
Fellowship:
Nursery: Megan Zimmerman
Church Lockup: Sandy Bennett
Mowers: None needed

Next Week's Servers

October 5, 2025



Worship Asst.: Kathleen Robinson
Reader: Tyler Baas-Peterson
Ushers: Erin & Ron Leversee
Technology: Jackson, Seguin, Paul Swodzinski, Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Lynne Wathen
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov
Communion Assts.: Karen Adams, Melissa Ottesen,
Amy Baumann, Annika Eklov
Altar Guild: Dorothy Tisland
Fellowship:
Nursery: Erika Baumann
Church Lockup: Laurie Brown
Mowers: Dave Walch, 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

Church phone: 269/343-3453

Staff

Pastor: Rachel Laughlin
Administrative Asst: Tamara Preston
Accountant: Marilyn Storch
Technology Manager: Mike Whately
Intern: Kathleen Robinson

Engagement: Em Witteveen
Music Director: Janet Hill
Custodian: Steve Haddix
Nursery: Melissa Copeland
Care Team Email: prayer@popportage.org

NAME: _____

SERMON

Notes

SERMON
TITLE:

READINGS
FROM:

date: _____

FAVORITE VERSE OR QUOTE:

FAVORITE
WORSHIP
SONG
TODAY:

THINGS I HAVE
QUESTIONS ABOUT:

SERMON NOTES

DRAW IT OUT:

