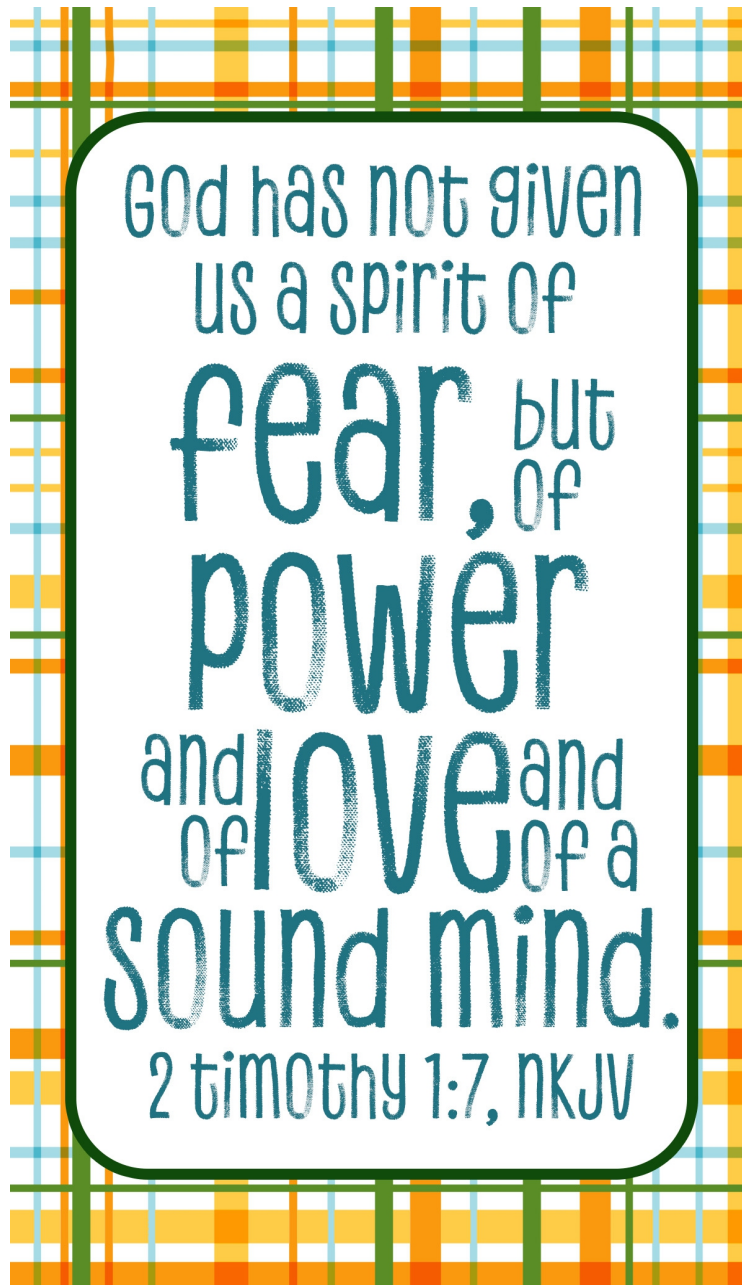


Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 5, 2025



*"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

"Eye Has Not Seen"

arr. Randall Sensmeier

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

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

No. 733

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: Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sit

Children’s Sermon / Blessing of the Quilts

Pastor: God, we give you thanks for those who have generously shared their resources in order to make these quilts/kits possible. Move us by their example to live generous lives.

All: Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors.

Pastor: Thank you, God, for the hands that have made and assembled these quilts/kits. May each compassionate touch be known to those who receive them as an expression of your love.

All: Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors.

Pastor: God, we lift before you the staff and partners of LWR who will distribute these quilts/kits around the world. Give them strength and encouragement to do this important work and guide them as they reach our neighbors who are the farthest away.

All: Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors.

Pastor: Finally, God, we pray for our neighbors around the world who will receive these quilts/kits – neighbors we have never met, neighbors who are far away, neighbors who, like us, long for your grace and mercy. May these quilts/ kits wrap our neighbors in love and fill them with the hope and peace that is only found in you.

All: Amen.



WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law becomes slack, and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous; therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

I will stand at my watchpost and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me and what he will answer concerning my complaint. Then the Lord answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 37:1-9

Reader: Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong. For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.

All: Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire.

Reader: Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust in the Lord, and see what God will do. The Lord will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.

All: Be still before the Lord and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.

Reader: Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.

All: For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the Lord shall possess the land.

Second Reading

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

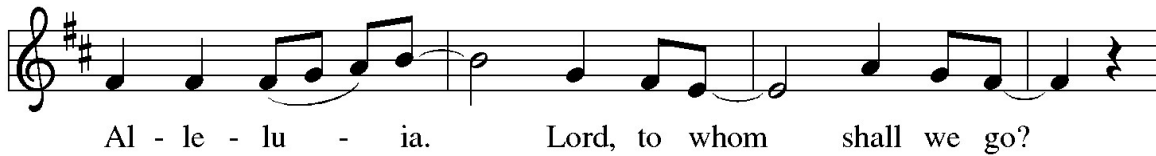
Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Reader: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading

Luke 17:5-10

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 17th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Laughlin

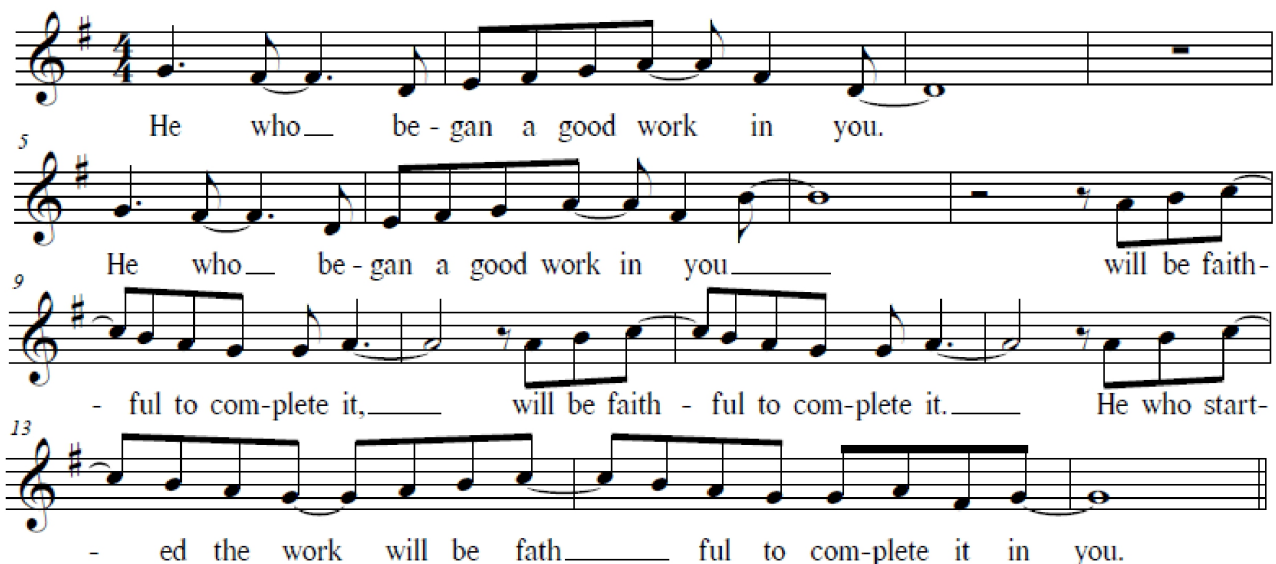
Stand

Hymn of the Day

"He Who Began a Good Work in You"

W & P No. 56

Sung twice



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

Anthem

"Quiet Faith"
Sanctuary Choir

Heather Sorenson

*In a quiet faith, in a gentle grace, often in the steadfast pace, we see the hand of God.
In the faithful prayers, in the silence shared, often in the simple care, we see the heart of God.
Not all soldiers carry swords.
Not all victories come with headlines and rewards
Not all mountains move by sermons and debate.
Often it's the quiet faith.*

*In humility, in our sacrifice, in gentility, we see the mind of Christ.
Often in the daily task, meeting needs before they're asked, service not bypassed by God who sees the heart.
Not all soldiers carry swords.*

*Not all victories come with headlines and rewards.
Not all mountains move by sermons and debate.
Often it's the quiet faith.*

*Blessed are the poor, blessed are the meek, blessed are the ones who help the weak,
Blessed are those who seek.
Unknown giants with unseen triumphs.
In a quiet faith, often in a gentle grace, in the steadfast pace we see the hand of God.*

Stand

Offering Response

"Lord, Be Glorified"
vs. 2, 4

No. 744

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.

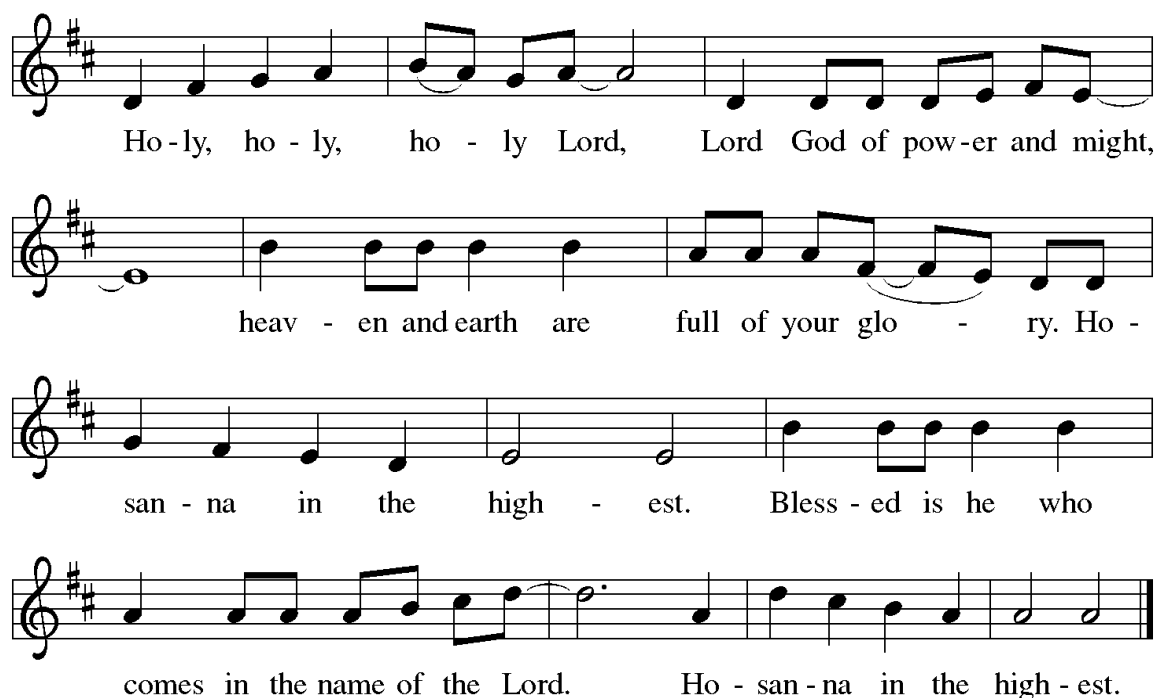
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

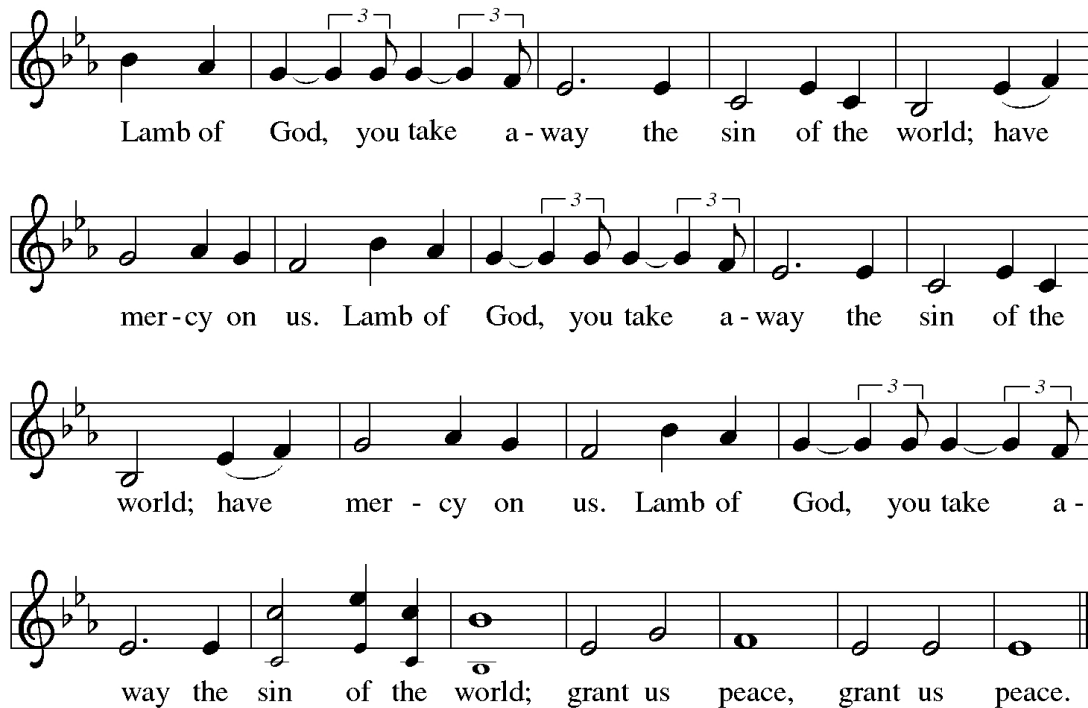
Sit

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

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

No. 759

"We've Come This Far by Faith"

No. 633

Refrains - All, verses - Choir

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

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

No. 841

Dismissal

Asst: Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Music for the Close of Worship

“Andante from Sonata VI”

Felix Mendelssohn



ELW Setting 6; Gospel Alleluia, Permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual License SAS006200.

He Who Began a Good Work in You © Capitol CMG Publishing. Permission under CCLI Annual License 11064917

Feed Us with A Hunger for Justice, Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. Permission under OneLicense A-710485

ELW Setting 1; Dialogue, Permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual License SAS006200.

ELW Setting 6; Sanctus & Lamb of God, Permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual License SAS006200.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

This Week's Servers

October 5, 2025

Worship Asst.: Kathleen Robinson
Reader: Tyler Baas-Peterson
Ushers: Erin & Ron Leversee
Instrumentalists: Laurel Hopper, flute; Tom Webster, clarinet;
Scottie Walker, saxophone
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: Sandy Bennett, Gail MacNellis
Nursery: Erika Baumann, Megan Zimmerman
Church Lockup: Laurie Brown
Mowers: Dave Walch, Greg Hannemann

Next Week's Servers

October 12, 2025


Worship Asst.:
Reader: Karen Adams
Ushers: Greg Guthrie, Lee Banitt
Technology: Mark Clyne, Mike Whately, Jeremy Zimmerman
Prayer Station: Jan Ellwitz
Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson
Communion Assts.: Sandy Mertz, Randi Martin, Cam Hart
Altar Guild: Gail MacNellis
Fellowship:
Nursery:
Church Lockup: Jenny Deming
Mowers: No mowing needed


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