

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, November 30, 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 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 "Savior of the Nations, Come"

arr. James Engel

Wade Lawrence, recorder

Welcome

Stand

Advent Wreath Lighting

Pastor: Among the poor, among the proud, among the persecuted, among the privileged,

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Pastor: In the private house, in the public place, in the wedding feast, in the judgement hall,

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Pastor: With a gentle touch, with an angry word, with a clear conscience, with burning love,

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Pastor: That the kingdom might come, that the world might believe, that the powerful might stumble, that the hidden might be seen,

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Pastor: Within us, without us, behind us, before us, in this place, in every place, for this time, for all time,

All: Christ is coming to make all things new.

Pastor: Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning.

As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace.

O house of Jacob, come,

All: let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

One candle is lit by Alex Zimmerman

"Light One Candle"

Sung by All



Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He_ shall bring sal - va-tion to Is-ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

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: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

The Children's Sermon

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm**Psalm 122**

Reader: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

All: Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself; to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord. For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

Reader: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

All: For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity. Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good."

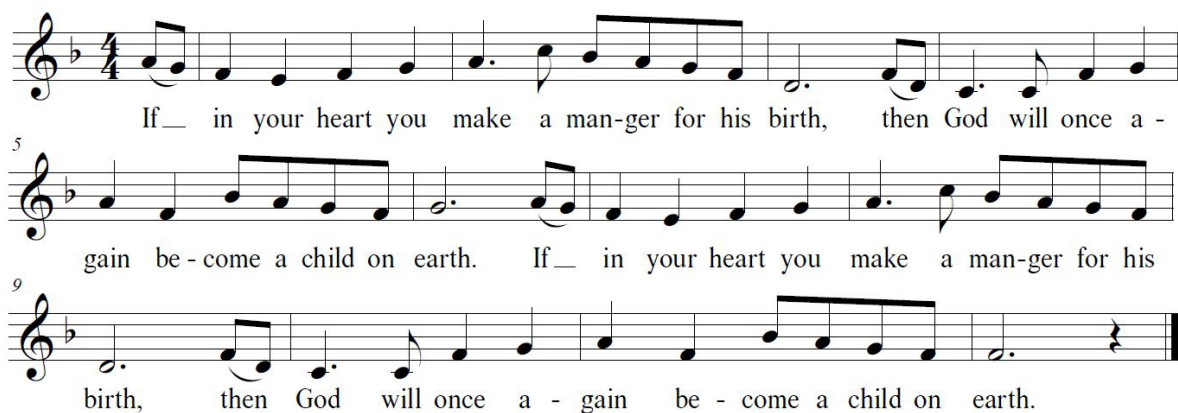
Second Reading**Romans 13:11-14**

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation**Gospel Reading****Matthew 24:36-44**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] "About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

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

"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"
Scottie Walker, saxophone

ACS No. 949

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
2 Dark - er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps

trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

Refrain
Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;
chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al-most done.

Apostles' Creed

Asst: Joining with 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 "Generous God," worshipers respond "**Pour out your Love.**"
Repeat "Listen" once 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

Offering Hymn

"The Time Has Come"

ACS No. 901

vs 1- Cantors, vs 2, 3, 4 - All, Stand for last verse.

1)The time has__ come to wake from sleep. The night is
2)The time has__ come to clear the way for love, at
3)The time has__ come to share the Word. God's jus - tice
3 4)The time has__ come to bring to birth God's gra - cious
long,__ the shad - ows deep, yet soon the sun shall rise and
last,__ to have its day. An an - cient voice speaks words still
comes! Good News is heard! In Christ the world is turned a -
6 dream for all the earth. Let fear and false - hood fall a -
wake; the night give way, the shad - ows break. Let us a - rise__ to greet the
new: "God's reign is here! Hope shall break through! Prune with - ered branch - es, from the
round: the last are first; the lost are found; the poor are lift - ed, loved, and
10 way, as night at last gives way to day. Though still we strug - gle to be -
dawn; our hope re - born,__ our ha - tred gone. Re - splen - dent
vine, that on the fruit__ the sun can shine." A sprout shall
fed; the chil - dren blessed; the ta - ble spread. So, speak the__
lieve all__ that the spir - it can con - ceive. God's dream will
13 col - or streaks the skies; the time has come, let us a - rise.
spring from what was bare; the time has come, let us pre - pare.
truth and raise your voice; the time has come, let us re - joice.
dawn, the shad - ows break; the time has come, let us a - wake.

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: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

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: . . . and join in their unending hymn.

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Pastor: You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all that is good; you bring joy from despair, life from death. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all.

We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pastor: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

All: Amen, amen, amen.

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.

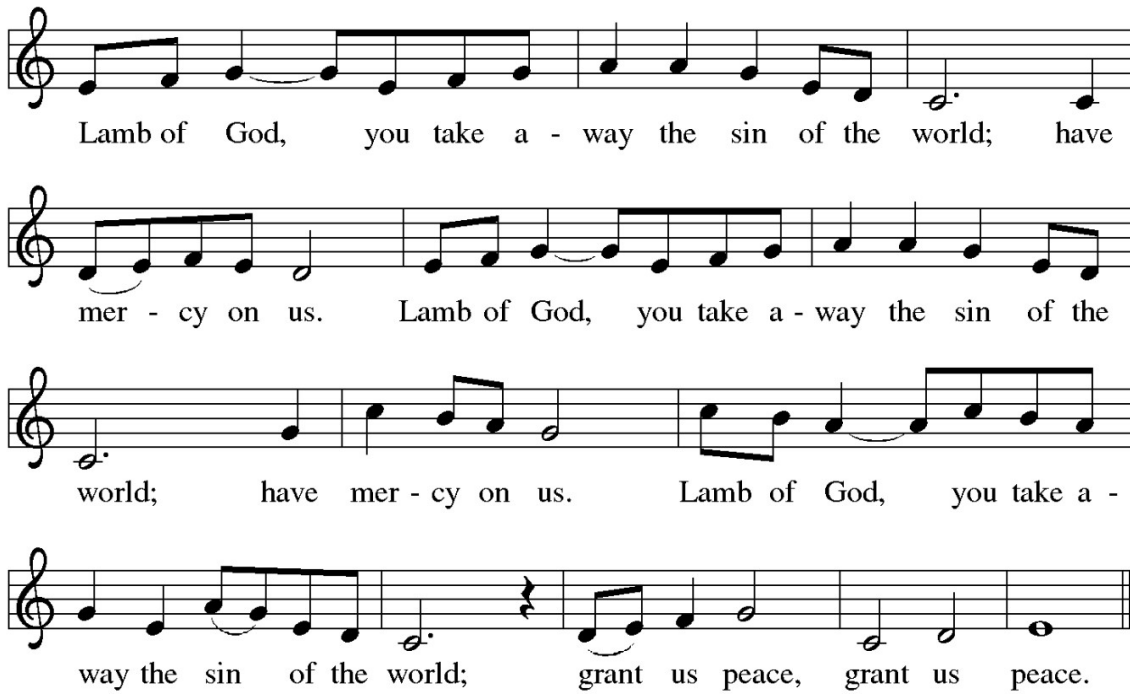
Sit

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



Communion Hymns

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"
"He Came Down"

No. 247
No. 253

Table Blessing

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

All: Amen.

Asst: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Sending of Communion

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

Pastor: Gracious God, whose mercy endures from generation to generation: As Mary set out to visit Elizabeth before she gave birth to her son, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our siblings who are sick/homebound/imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion, that through the body and blood of your Son we may all know the hope of your promised coming in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Sit

WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

Announcements

Worshippers 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: May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

All: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

No. 436

Dismissal

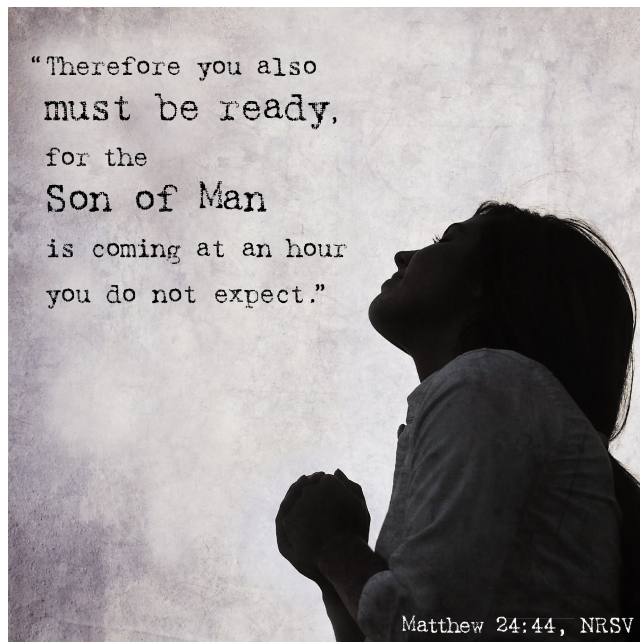
Asst: Go in peace. Keep awake.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Music for the Close of Worship

“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

arr. John Ferguson



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Today's Servers
November 30, 2025

Worship Asst.: Katherine Robinson
Reader: Robert Wagley
Ushers: Lee Banitt, Kay Kincaid
Technology: Mark Clyne, Paul Guthrie, Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Lynne Wathen
Sacristy Asst.: Marilyn Storch
Communion Assts.: Annika Eklov, MacKenzie Hart,
Micki Holder, Alex Zimmerman
Altar Guild: Gail MacNellis
Fellowship Host: Bette Stemaly
Fellowship Treats: Bette Stemaly
Church Lockup: Nancy Pendziszewski
Wednesday Advent Lockup: Sandy Bennett

Next Week's Servers
December 7, 2025

Worship Asst.: Noel Sederstrom
Reader: Karen Adams
Ushers: Greg Guthrie
Technology: Jackson Seguin, Paul Swodzinski, Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Lynne Wathen
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov
Communion Assts.: Ella Bovenkerk, Cam Hart,
Cindy Sederstrom, Pam Timm
Altar Guild: Linda Timm
Fellowship Host:
Fellowship Treats:
Church Lockup: Noel Sederstrom
Wednesday Advent Lockup: Judson Stemaly

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



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Staff

Church phone: 269/343-3453

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Administrative Asst: Tamara Preston
Accountant: Marilyn Storch
Technology Manager: Mike Whately
Engagement Coor: Em Witteveen

Intern: Kathleen Robinson
Music Director: Janet Hill
Custodian: Steve Haddix
Nursery: Melissa Copeland & Megan Zimmerman
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