

## Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Prepare Ye,  
the Way of  
the Lord



*"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](http://popportage.org)

Prayer-mail: [prayer@popportage.org](mailto: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

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"  
*Handbell Choir*

arr. Cathy Mocklebust

### 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 hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people.

As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations. O people of hope, come,

**All: let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.**

*Two candles are lit by Ella Bovenkerk*

*"Light One Candle"*

*Sung by All*



### **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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through 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 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Reader: Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son; that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice; that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.

**All: Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

*High: May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.*

Low: Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.

**All: In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.**

Reader: Blessed are you, Lord God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds! And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory.

**All: Amen. Amen.**

**Second Reading**

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

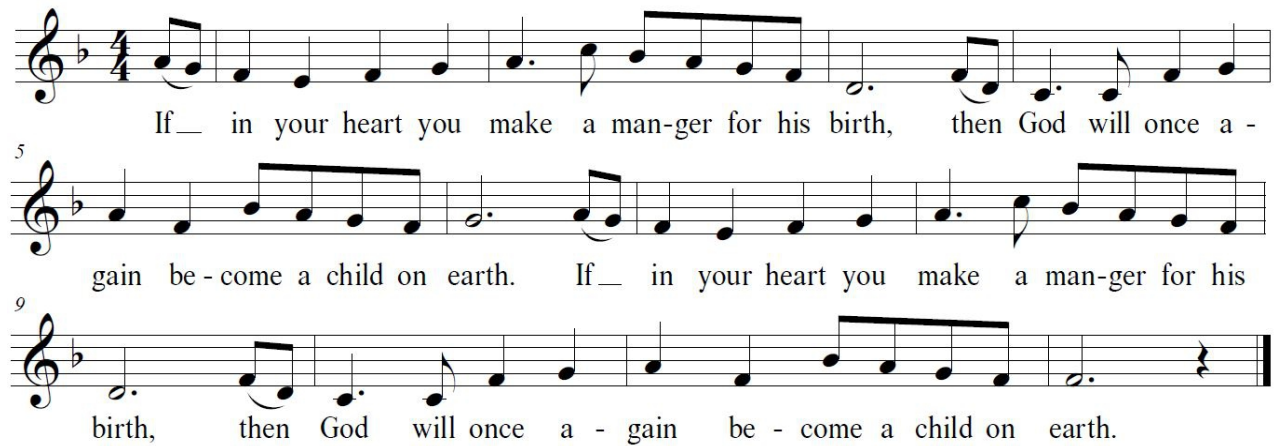
Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### Gospel Acclamation



If — in your heart you make a man-ger for his birth, then God will once a -  
gain be - come a child on earth. If — in your heart you make a man-ger for his  
birth, then God will once a - gain be - come a child on earth.

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' "

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

### Sermon

Intern Kathleen Robinson

*Stand*

### Hymn of the Day

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

No. 256

## 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

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

### Anthem

"Prepare the Royal Highway"  
*Laurel Hopper, flute*

arr. Robert Powell

*Stand*

### Offering Hymn

"Prepare the Royal Highway"  
*vs 1, 4*

No. 264

### 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.

This musical score is for a four-part setting of the Grace Before the Meal. It consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a double bar line, and the fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

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.

This musical score is for a four-part setting of the Sanctus. It consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a double bar line, and the fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

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.



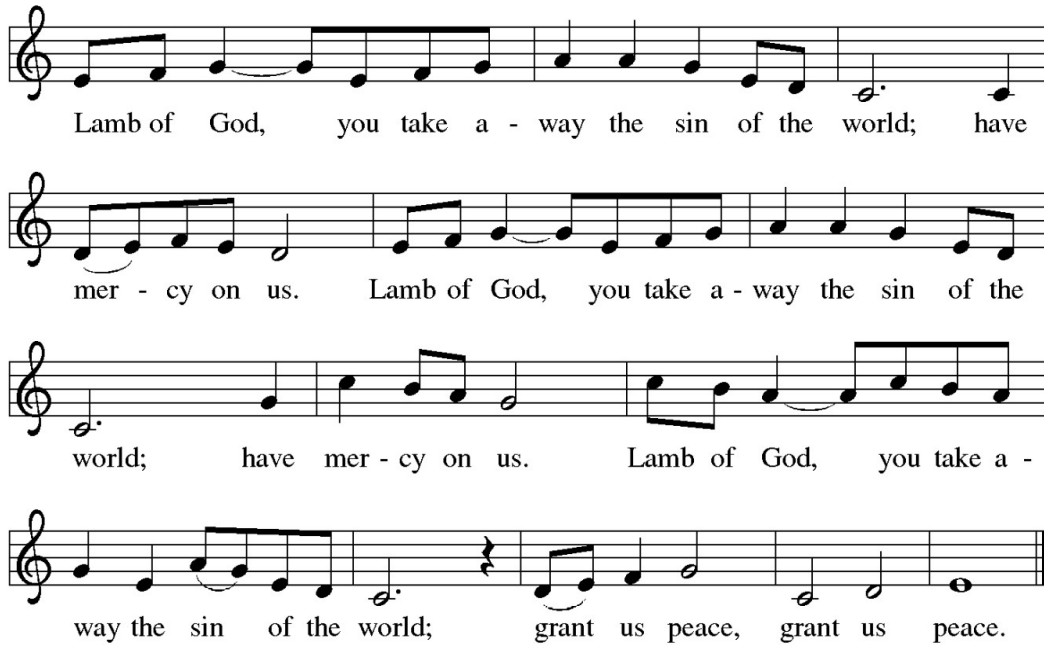
Sit

## 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



*Español:* 1 Tú, Je - sús, nues - tra es - pe - ran - za, ven y  
2 Ven, y te - je un mun - do nue - vo ca - mi -

*English:* 1 Come to be our hope, O Je - sus, come to  
2 Come to build your new cre - a - tion through the

li - bra nues - tro ser. Ni - ño,  
nan - do en la ver - dad, pa - ra  
set your peo - ple free. From op -  
road of ser - vant - hood; give new

na - ce en - tre no - so - tros, ven y da - nos tu po -  
que, por fin, el pue - blo vi - va en ple - na li - ber -  
pres - sion, come, re - lease us, grant us your true lib - er -  
life to ev - 'ry na - tion, chang - ing e - vil in - to

der. Ven li - ber - ta pri - sio - ne - ros de in - jus -  
tad. Ven, Je - sús, a - bre el fu - tu - ro de tu  
ty. Come, re - lease from ev - 'ry pris - on those who  
good. Come and o - pen our to - mor - row for your

ti - cia y a - flic - ción; ven, re - ú - ne nues - tros  
rei - no de a - le - gría. Ven, de - rrum - ba es - te gran  
suf - fer in our land. In your love we find the  
joy - ful reign so near. Take a - way all hu - man

pue - blos en a - mor y en com - pren - sión.  
mu - ro que hoy se - pa - ra no - che y dí - a.  
rea - son still to live and un - der - stand.  
sor - row; give us hope a - gainst our fear.

"On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry"

No. 249

**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**

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

No. 254

### **Dismissal**

Asst: Go in peace. Keep awake.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### **Music for the Close of Worship**

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

arr. Paul Manz

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*Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus*, Text © 1987, 1989 World Council of Churches;

Music © 1989 Marcílio de Oliveira Filho, admin. World Council of Churches

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**Today's Servers**  
**December 7, 2025**

Worship Asst.: Noel Sederstrom  
Acolyte: Bette Stemaly  
Reader: Karen Adams  
Ushers: Greg Guthrie, Kay Kincaid  
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: Tammy Cooper, Tamara Preston  
Fellowship Treats: Jim Morgan  
Church Lockup: Noel Sederstrom  
Wednesday Advent Lockup: Judson Stemaly

**Next Week's Servers**  
**December 14, 2025**

Worship Asst.:  
Reader: Alison Carlson  
Ushers:  
Technology: Mark Clyne, Jackson Seguin, Mike Whately  
Prayer Station: Laurie Brown  
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov  
Communion Assts.: Karen Adams, Callan Davis,  
Annika Eklov, MacKenzie Hart,  
Altar Guild: Dianne Hellman  
Fellowship Host: Youth  
Fellowship Treats: Youth  
Church Lockup: Judson Stemaly  
Wednesday Advent Lockup: Sandy Mertz

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

**Staff**

**Pastor:** Rachel Laughlin ext 11

**Administrative Asst:** Tamara Preston ext 10

**Accountant:** Marilyn Storch ext 14

**Technology Manager:** Mike Whately ext 13

**Engagement Coor:** Em Witteveen ext 12

**Intern:** Kathleen Robinson ext 15

**Music Director:** Janet Hill ext 16

**Custodian:** Steve Haddix ext 20

**Nursery:** Melissa Copeland & Megan Zimmerman ext 17

**Care Team Email:** prayer@popportage.org