

First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 28, 2025



And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

LUKE 2:10-11, ESV



*"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 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

Welcome

Stand

Gathering Song

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

No. 288

Dialogue

Pastor: Who are these angels who come to earth,

All: bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?

Pastor: Who are these shepherds who run to see,

All: and worship the babe on bended knee?

Pastor: Who is this child, so small, so slight,

All: of whom the angels sang that night?

Pastor: Who is this king, a manger his throne,

All: who humbles himself to make us his own?

Pastor: Who is this God who sends a Son

All: into our midst, the promised one?

Greeting and Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

First Lesson Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Carol "Cold December Flies Away" No.299

Second Lesson Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

Carol "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" No. 272
vs 1 and 2

Third Lesson St. Luke 1:26-35, 38

Hymn "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" No. 265

**All: The angel Gabriel from heaven came, with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady." Gloria!**

Low: "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady." Gloria!

High: *Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

**All: Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: "Most highly favored lady." Gloria!**

Fourth Lesson St. Luke 2:1, 3-7

Carol "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" No. 284

Fifth Lesson St. Luke 2:8-16

Hymn "Go Tell It on the Mountain" No. 290

Sixth Lesson St. Matthew 2:1-11

Carol "In the Bleak Midwinter" No. 294

Nicene Creed

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

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

After "Generous God," worshipers respond **"Pour out your Love."**

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

*"Love Has Come"
Stand for last verse*

No. 292

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*

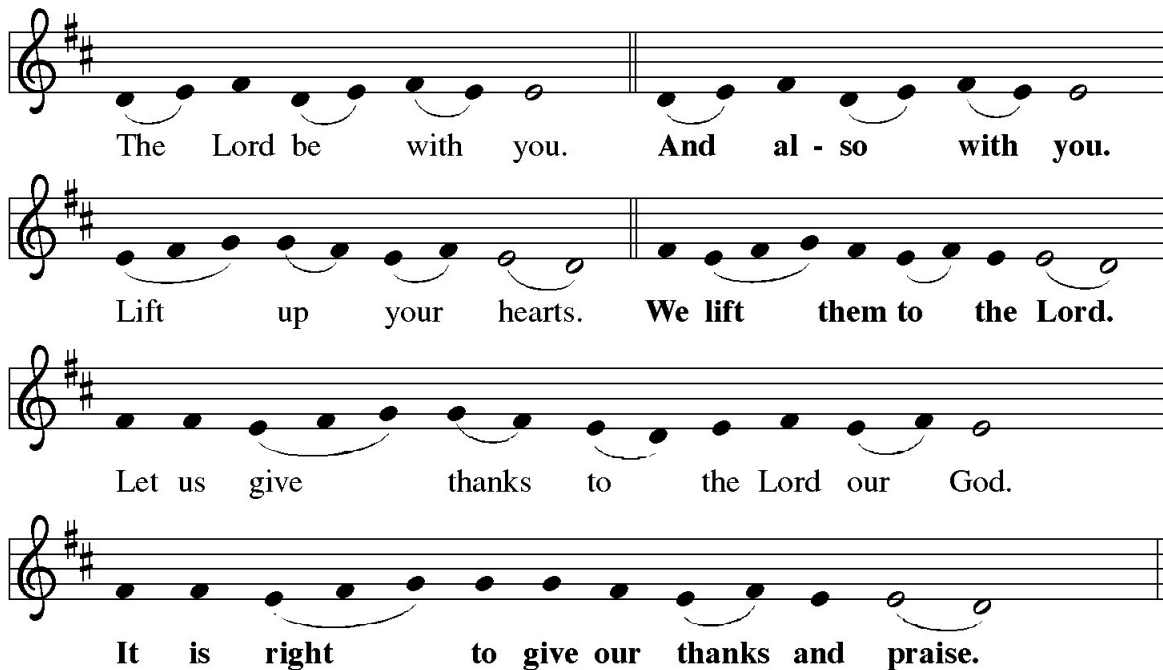
Offering Prayer

Asst: God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.

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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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:

Santo, Santo, Santo

Sung first in Spanish, then in English



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra-zón te a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.

Mi co - ra-zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to_e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Eucharistic Prayer

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 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.

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 on 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



1) O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you
2) O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you
3) O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away: e -

5
suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now we pray.
set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Table Blessing

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

All: **Amen.**

Asst: Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

All: **Amen.**

Sending of Communion

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

Pastor: O God, whose grace and truth are revealed in the Word-made-flesh, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick/homebound/imprisoned*. Nourish and strengthen those who receive this holy communion, that through the body and blood of your Son all may rejoice at his birth and in his presence among us now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

WE ARE SENT TO 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, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, ✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

All: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

"Joy to the World"

No. 267

Dismissal

Asst: Glory to God in the highest!

All: **And peace to God's people on earth!**

Asst: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Music for the Close of Worship

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Today's Servers
December 28, 2025

Worship Asst.: Kathleen Robinson
Guest Organist: Michael Montgomery
Reader: Tammy Olsen
Ushers: Mark Clyne, Paul Guthrie, Mike Whately
Technology: Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Lynne Wathen
Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson
Communion Assts.: Cam Hart
Altar Guild: Verity Poisson
Fellowship Host:
Fellowship Treats: Alicia B, Lynne Wathen
Church Lockup: Lisa Creed

Next Week's Servers
January 4, 2026

Worship Asst.: Em Witteveen
Reader: Rob Wagley
Ushers: Greg Guthrie, Kay Kincaid
Technology: Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Lynne Wathen
Sacristy Asst.: Marilyn Storch
Communion Assts.: Karen Adams
Altar Guild: Diane Snyder
Fellowship Host:
Fellowship Treats:
Church Lockup: Laurie Brown

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