

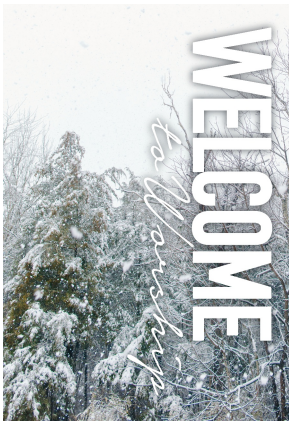
Baptism of the Lord

Sunday, January 11, 2026



*"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

"Down Galilee's Slow Roadways"

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Welcome

Stand and face the font

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, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

All: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Mighty God, lover of justice,

All: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

Pastor: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"When Jesus Came to Jordan"

No. 305

vs. 1, 2, 3 - All. Cantors sing ACS 976 "Come and See" between verses

*What are you looking for? Come, see, come and see.
What are you looking for? Come and see. (Come and see.)*

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: O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, 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 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 29

Reader 1: Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due God's name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

Reader 2: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;

All: the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.

Reader 2: The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice;

All: the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor.

Reader 2: The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;

All: the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; the Lord makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

Reader 1: The voice of the Lord bursts forth in lightning flashes.

High: The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

Low: The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!"

Reader 1: The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.

All: O Lord, give strength to your people; give them, O Lord, the blessings of peace.

Second Reading

Acts 10:34-43

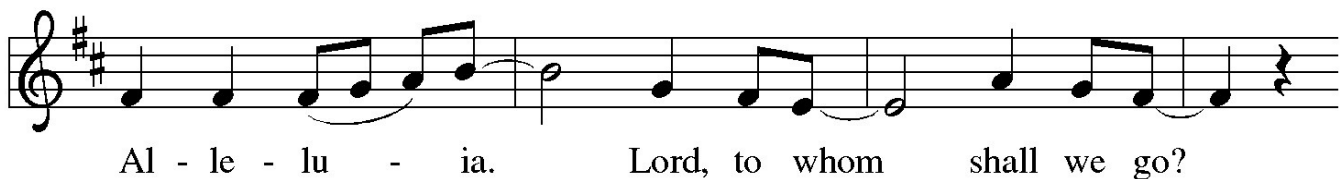
Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Laughlin

Stand

Hymn of the Day

"Down Galilee's Slow Roadways"

ACS No. 916



1 Down Gal - i - lee's slow road - ways a strang - er trav - eled on
2 A - ris - ing from the riv - er he saw the heav - ens torn;
3 We too have found a road - way; it led us to this place.



from Naz - a - reth to Jor - dan to be bap - tized by John.
it seemed the sky so o - pen re - vealed the Spir - it's form.
We all have had to trav - el in search of hope and grace.



He went down to the wa - ters like sol - dier, scribe, and slave,
The ho - ly dove de - scend - ed a - mid a glo - rious voice:
But now be - side this wa - ter a - gain a voice is heard.



but there with - in the riv - er the sign was birth and grave.
"You are my own be - lov - ed, my child, my heart, my choice."
"You are my own, my cho - sen, be - lov - ed of your Lord."

Prayers of the Church

Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful

Sa - vior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em -

man - u - el, God is with us, bles - sed Re -

deem - er, liv - ing Word.

After "Generous God," worshipers respond **"Pour out your Love."**
 Repeat **"Jesus, Name Above All Names"** 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

"I Bind unto Myself Today"

No. 450

Vs. 1, 2, 3, 5 - All, vs. 4 - Cantors. Stand at last verse.

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 majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Stand

Great Thanksgiving - Grace Before the Meal

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: . . . and join in their unending hymn.

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed 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

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.

Table Blessing

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

All: **Amen.**

Asst: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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, or 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**

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 the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✠ bless you now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise"

No. 310

Dismissal

Asst: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Music for the Close of Worship

"I've Just Come from the Fountain"

arr. Richard Billingham

Cover art: *The Baptism of Jesus* by Mike Moyers. MikeMoyersFineArt.com. Used with permission.

Celtic Alleluia, Text: Public Domain Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. Permission under OneLicense Annual License A-710485

Down Galilee's Slow Roadways, Text and music © 1987 Make Way Music, Permission under One License Annual License #A-710485
Jesus, Name Above All Names, Text and music © 1984 Scripture in Song, admin. Music Services.

Permission under CCLI Annual License #11064917

Santo, Santo, Santo, Text and music Public Domain

O Lamb of God, Text and Music: © 2022 Augsburg Fortress. Permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual License 262200

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Today's Servers
January 11, 2026

Worship Asst.: Lisa Creed
Acolyte: Bette Stemaly
Reader: Karen Adams
Ushers: Lee Banitt, Kay Kincaid
Technology: Mark Clyne, Paul Guthrie, Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Randy Martin
Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson
Communion Assts.: Gail MacNellis
Altar Guild: Sandy Bennett
Fellowship Host:
Fellowship Treats:
Church Lockup: Jenny Deming

Next Week's Servers
January 18, 2026

Worship Asst.:
Reader:
Ushers: Gregory Guthrie
Technology: Jackson Seguin, Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Karen Adams
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov
Communion Assts.: Micki Holder, Sandy Mertz
Altar Guild: Dianne Hellman
Fellowship Host:
Fellowship Treats: Mary Holtapp, Jacob Mills
Church 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

NAME: _____

SERMON

Notes

date: _____

FAVORITE VERSE OR QUOTE:

SERMON
TITLE:

READINGS
FROM:

FAVORITE
WORSHIP
SONG
TODAY:

THINGS I HAVE
QUESTIONS ABOUT:

SERMON NOTES

DRAW IT OUT: