

## Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday, January 18, 2026

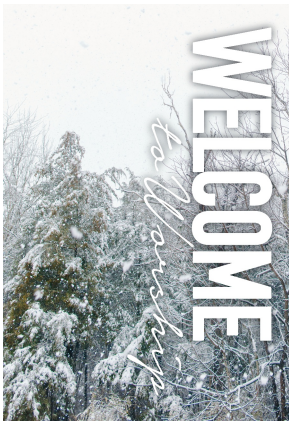
"Behold,  
the Lamb  
of God  
who takes  
away the  
sin of  
the  
world!"

John 1:29, NRSVue



*"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  
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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**

"Jesus Loves Me"

arr. Ann Buys

#### **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**

*"Arise, Your Light Has Come!"*

No. 314

**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: Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Sit*

**The Children's Sermon**

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

**First Reading**

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands; pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born; while I was in my mother's womb he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God."

And now the Lord says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and my God has become my strength—he says, "It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One, to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm

Psalm 40:1-11

Reader: I waited patiently upon the Lord, who stooped to me and heard my cry. The Lord lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a high cliff, making my footing sure. The Lord put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

High: *Happy are they who trust in the Lord! They do not turn to enemies or to those who follow lies.*

Low: Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God! In your plans for us, none can be compared with you! Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! But they are more than I can count.

High: *Sacrifice and offering you do not desire; you have opened my ears: burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required.*

Low: And so I said, "Here I am; I come. In the scroll of the book it is written of me: 'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me.' "

High: *I proclaimed righteousness in the great assembly; I have not restrained my lips, O Lord, you know.*

Low: I have not hidden your righteousness in my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; I have not concealed your steadfast love and truth from the great assembly.

All: **You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me; may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

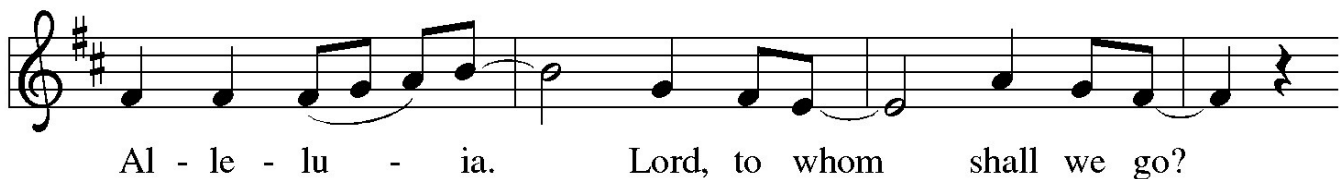
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Gospel Acclamation**



## Gospel Reading

John 1:29-42

The Holy Gospel according to John the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**Sermon**

Intern Kathleen Robinson

*Stand*

**Hymn of the Day**

"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

No. 857

*sung twice*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**Asst:** Joining 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

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

### "Give Me Jesus"

arr. Mark Patterson

Sanctuary Choir with Scottie Walker, saxophone

*In the morning when I rise, in the morning when I rise,  
 In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.  
 Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.  
 You can have all this world, give me Jesus.*

*And when I feel afraid, and when I feel afraid  
 and when I feel afraid, give me Jesus.  
 Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.  
 You can have all this world, give me Jesus.*

*And when the trumpet sounds, and when the trumpet sounds,  
 And when the trumpet sounds, give me Jesus.  
 Give me Jesus, give me Jesus.  
 You can have all this world, but give me Jesus.*

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.

1 You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shep - herd.  
 2 Clothed in light up - on the moun - tain,  
 3 You, who walk each day be - side us,  
 4 Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus!

You, Lord, are both prince and slave.  
 stripped of might up - on the cross,  
 sit in pow - er at God's side,  
 Wor - thy is our cos - mic Christ!

You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er  
 shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,  
 You, who preach a way that's nar - row,  
 Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;

of the way you took - and gave.  
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss,  
 have a love that reach - es wide.  
 wor - thy still your peace and strife.

You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 you, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;  
 You, the ev - er - last - ing in - stant;

you, whom we both scorn and crave.  
 you, who are both gift and cost.  
 you, who are our pil - grim and guide.  
 you, who are our death and life.

"Lamb of God"

No. 336

**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

*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: 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

“We Are Marching in the Light of God”

No. 866

*We are dancing. . . , We are praying . . . , we are singing . . .*

### Dismissal

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

### Music for the Close of Worship

“How Brightly Shines the Morningstar”

arr. Philip Gehring

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Today's Servers  
January 18, 2026

Worship Asst.: Noel Sederstrom  
Reader: Marilyn Storch  
Ushers: Gregory Guthrie, Kay Kincaid  
Technology: Jackson Seguin, Paul Swodzinzki, 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

Next Week's Servers  
January 25, 2026

Worship Asst.: Steve Pendziszewski  
Reader:  
Ushers:  
Technology: Paul Swodzinzki, Mike Whately  
Prayer Station: Laurie Brown  
Sacristy Asst.: Marilyn Storch  
Communion Assts.:  
Altar Guild: Gail MacNellis  
Fellowship Host: Idy Stemaly  
Fellowship Treats: Church Council  
Church Lockup: John Thommen

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