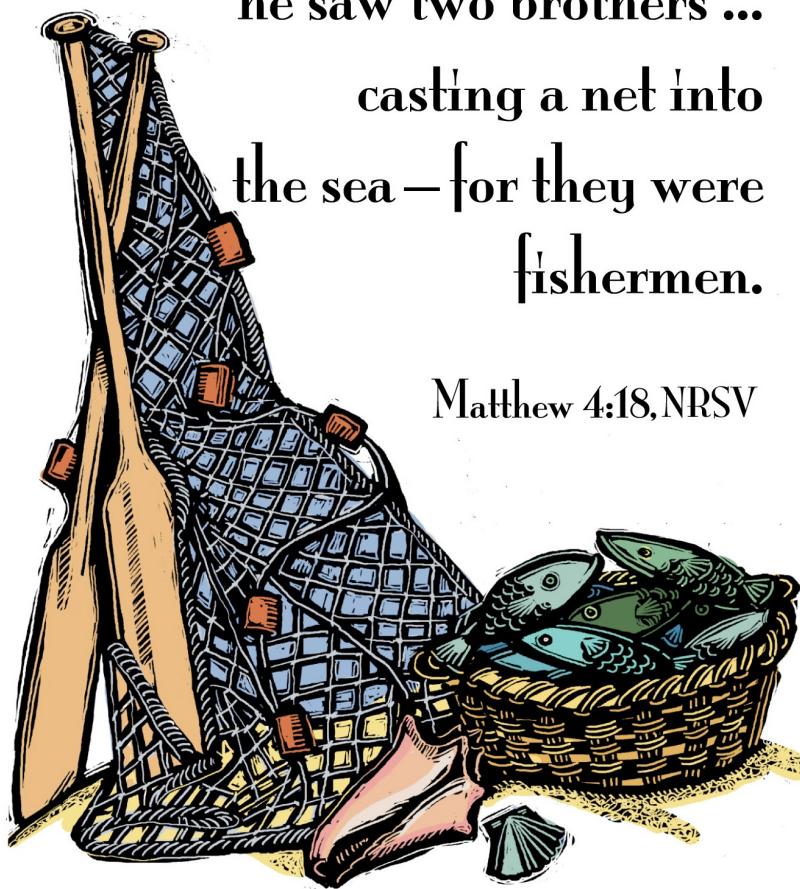


**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
Sunday, January 25, 2026

**As he walked by the  
Sea of Galilee,  
he saw two brothers ...**

**casting a net into  
the sea – for they were  
fishermen.**

**Matthew 4:18, NRSV**

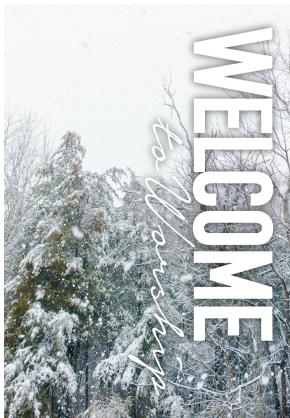


*“Touched by the Gospel, we see to be instruments of God’s Peace,  
for the sake of the World.”*

**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**

*Worshipers responses in bold.*

### Music for the Beginning of Worship

**"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**

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**

**"Listen God Is Calling"**  
*Leader in parentheses and All*

No. 513

**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: **Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

**The Children's Sermon**

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

**First Reading**

Isaiah 9:1-4

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Reader: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

All: **One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.**

Reader: For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

All: **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

Reader: Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me. My heart speaks your message—  
“Seek my face.” Your face, O Lord, I will seek.

All: **Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.**

### Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

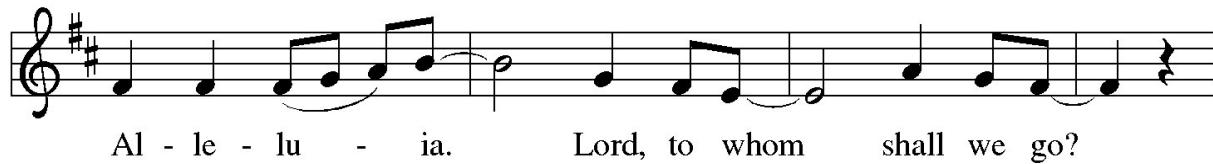
For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia.      Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life.      Al - le - lu - ia.

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 4:12-23

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

*Sit*

**Sermon**

Pastor Rachel Laughlin

*Stand*

**Hymn of the Day**

“They Cast Their Nets”  
vs. 1, 2, 4 - All, vs. 3 - Cantors

LBW No. 449

*ALL*

1)They cast their nets in Gal - i - lee, just off the hills of brown; Such  
2)Con - tent - ed, peace - ful fish - er - men, be - fore they ev - er knew the  
5  
hap - py sim - ple fish - er - folk, be - fore the Lord came down, be -  
peace of God that filled their hearts brim - ful, and broke them too, brim -  
9  
fore the Lord came down.  
ful, and broke them too. *CHOIR* 3) Young John, who trimmed the flap-ping sail,  
14  
home-less in Pat-mos died. Pe-ter, who hauled the teem-ing net, head down was cru - ci -  
19  
fied, head down was cru-ci - fied. 4) The Peace of God, it is no peace, but  
25  
strife closed in the sod. Yet, let us pray for but one thing: the mar-v'lous peace of  
30  
God, the mar - - v'lous peace of God.

## Apostles' Creed

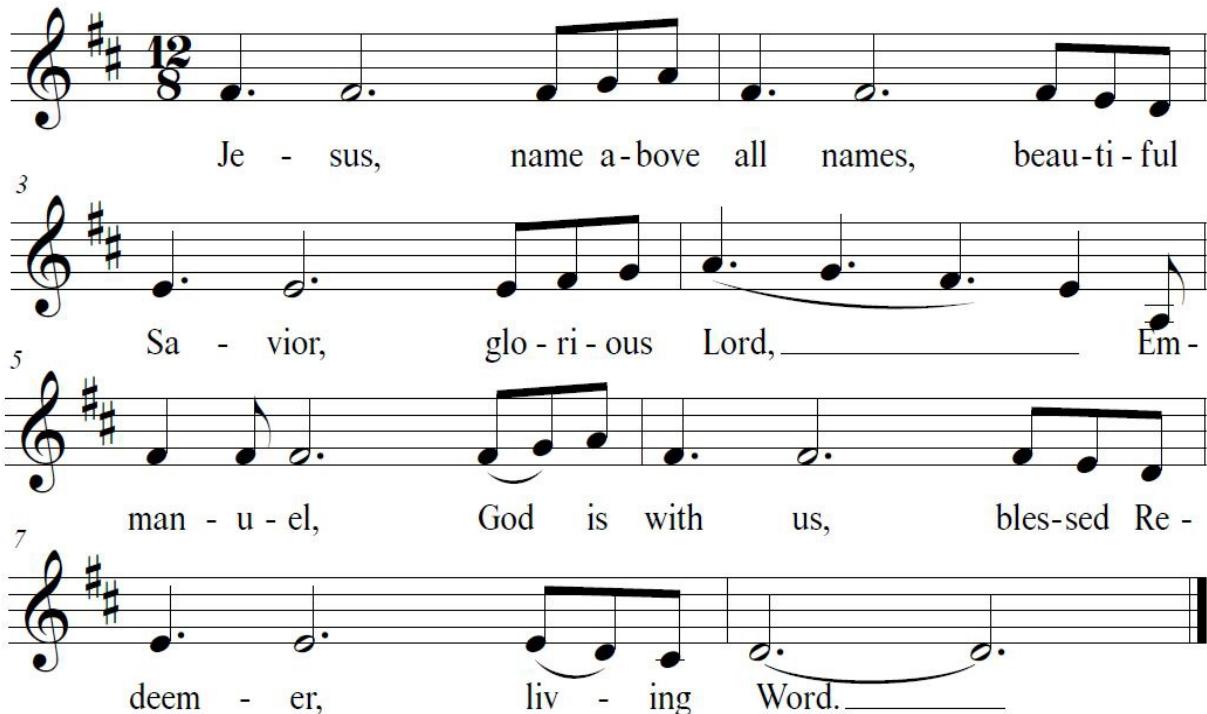
Asst: Joining the saints of every time and place, we confess our faith:

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



Jesus, Name above 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*

*Stand*

**Offering Response**

"Will You Come and Follow Me"  
Vs. 1, 3 - All; 2 - High; 4 - Low; 5 - All and stand

No. 798

**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.

All: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.  
**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.

## Communion Hymns

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

No. 674

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

No. 815

## Table Blessing

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

All: **Amen.**

Asst: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through 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**

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

No. 841

### **Dismissal**

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

arr. David Cherwien



THE LORD IS THE  
**STRONGHOLD**  
OF MY LIFE.

PSALM 27:1

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## Today's Servers

January 25, 2026

Worship Asst.: Steve Pendziszewski

Reader: Em Witteveen

Ushers: Kay Kincaid

Technology: Jackson Seguin, Paul Swodzinzki, Mike Whately

Prayer Station: Laurie Brown

Sacristy Asst.: Marilyn Storch

Communion Assts.: Sue Jones, Kathleen Robinson

Altar Guild: Gail MacNellis

Fellowship Host: Idy Stemaly

Fellowship Treats: Church Council

Church Lockup: John Thommen

## Next Week's Servers

February 1, 2026

Worship Asst.:

Reader: Gabe Carlson

Ushers: Lee, Banitt, Greg Guthrie

Technology: Mark Clyne, Jackson Seguin, Mike Whately

Prayer Station: Jan Ellwitz

Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson

Communion Assts.: Karen Adams

Altar Guild: Linda Timm

Fellowship Host:

Fellowship Treats:

Church Lockup: Mary Clyne

Use this QR code to donate online to  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
and its ministries.

See the Peace Proclamations for more details.



### Hearing Aid Compatible Assistive Listening System



1. Use this  QR code connect to the "pop\_listen" Wi-fi network.
2. Use this QR  Code to download the *Listen EveryWhere* app, either from the Apple Store or the Google Play Store.
3. On your phone go to your settings. Tap on Connections, tap on Wi-fi, look for the "pop\_listen" network and tap on it.
4. Then find your "Listen Everywhere" app, open it and tap on "POP Service"
5. After that you should be receiving audio in your hearing aids. If you need assistance, see an Usher.



### Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Staff

Church phone: 269/343-3453

#### Staff

**Pastor:** Rachel Laughlin ext 11

**Intern:** Kathleen Robinson ext 15

**Administrative Asst:** Tamara Preston ext 10

**Music Director:** Janet Hill ext 16

**Accountant:** Marilyn Storch ext 14

**Custodian:** Steve Haddix ext 20

**Technology Manager:** Mike Whately ext 13

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

**Engagement Coor:** Em Witteveen ext 12

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

