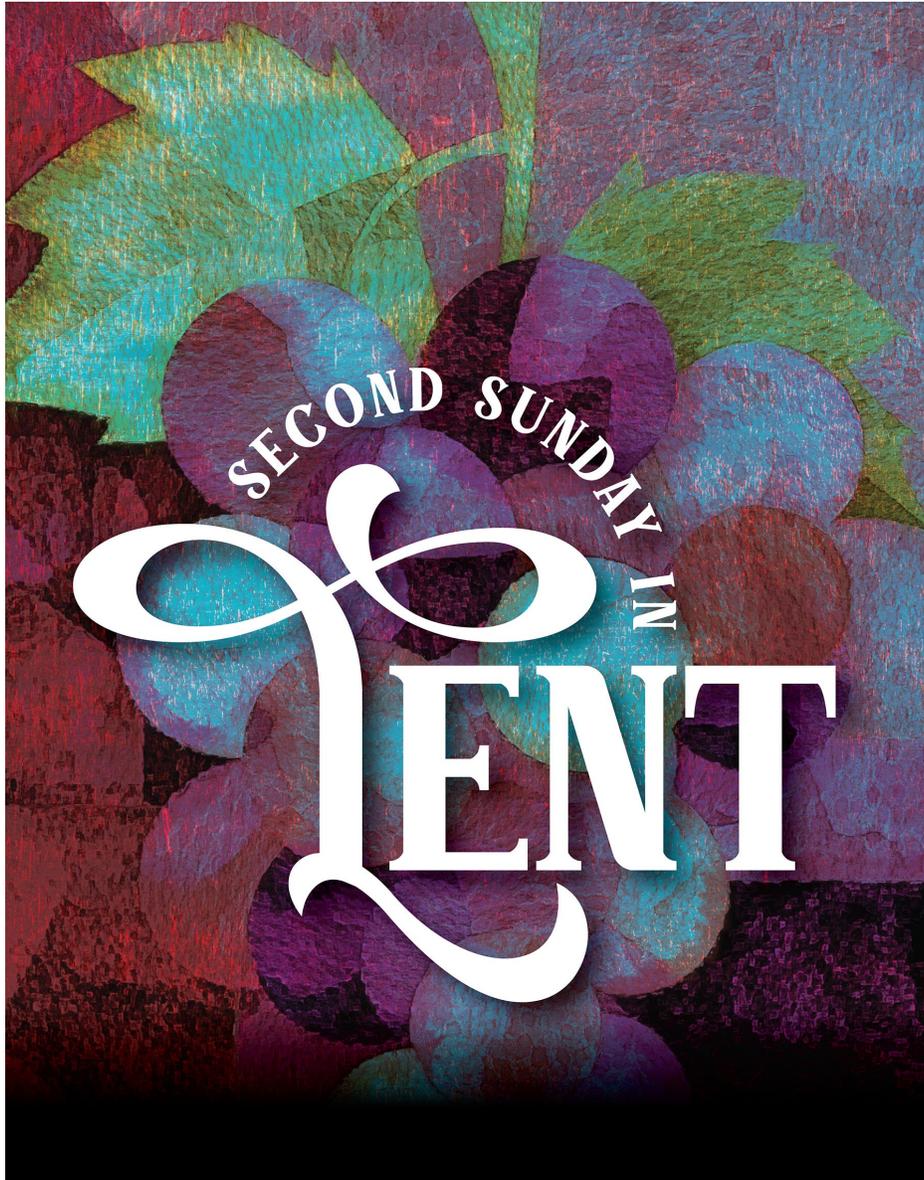


Second Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 1, 2026



*"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*



Entering Worship

- ▶ Fully accessible restrooms (men's, women's, gender-neutral) are located behind you as you face the altar. The women's room and nursery have changing tables.
- ▶ People of all ages and stages are encouraged to worship together. A staffed nursery is available 9 AM – Noon.
- ▶ Many people enjoy prayerful quiet in the Sanctuary before worship begins to help center themselves. By keeping conversation in the Gathering Space before worship, you are giving the gift of this peace to your neighbors.
- ▶ All are welcome to share Christ's communion regardless of age or faith tradition. The bread is gluten, nut, and dairy free. Wine and grape juice are available.

Embodying Praise

- ▶ Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.
- ▶ Some brains need a quiet activity to help them learn. Feel free to borrow a worship bag or a fidget toy to help your brain and body stay engaged. Ask an usher for assistance.
- ▶ If your body would benefit from extra motion during worship, you are welcome to get up and move about during the service. The Prayground in the Gathering Space is equipped with activities and soft toys for anyone to use. The service is still audible there.
- ▶ Hearing assistance devices direct clearer sound directly to your ears. They are available from the ushers. If you use Bluetooth-enabled hearing aids, see the back of the bulletin for instructions on connecting to the assistive listening system in our sanctuary.

Engaging in Community

- ▶ Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we strive to be an open, welcoming place for all people. Please join us in the Gathering Space after worship for snacks, coffee, and fellowship.
- ▶ This bulletin may be recycled in the basket on the floor near the glass door to the front parking lot. We invite you to take home the Peace Proclamations page with announcements and upcoming events.
- ▶ If you'd like to learn more about our community you can: greet Pastor Rachel at the door by the baptismal font after worship, visit the welcome table to pick up informational brochures or staff business cards, or visit our website: www.poppottage.org

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Worshippers responses in bold.

Music for the Beginning of Worship "Variations on Kum Ba Yah"

African-American Spiritual, arr. John A. Behnke

1. Someone's Praying, Lord
2. Someone's Crying, Lord
3. Someone's Singing, Lord

Welcome

Stand

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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers:
Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

All: Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Remember and Rejoice"
vs.1, 2, 4, 5

No. 454

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 leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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

Genesis 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 121

Reader: I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

High: *The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep. Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;*

Low: the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

Reader: The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

All: **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

Second Reading

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Lis - ten to the word which God has spo - ken;

3
lis - ten to the One who is close at hand;

5
lis - ten to the voice be - hind cre - a - tion;

7
lis - ten e - ven if you don't un - der - stand.

Gospel Reading

John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

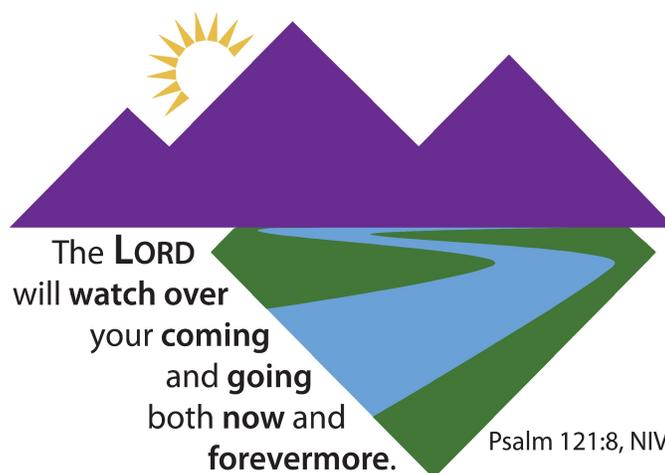
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sit

Sermon

Intern Kathleen Robinson





1 When it seems the day will end, and all
2 When it seems the day will end, sink - ing
3 When it seems the day will end, and a



light gives way to fear, we will speak your name a -
low un - der our skin, we are dead and born a -
cold - ness fills our bones, we will walk the way you've



gain to re - mind us you are here.
gain, and with you now en - ter in.
been, and our hearts will be your home.

Refrain



New life ris - ing, New life ris - ing, ash - es fall - ing, ash - es fall - ing,



joy and weep - ing, joy and weep - ing, in your call - ing. in your call - ing.

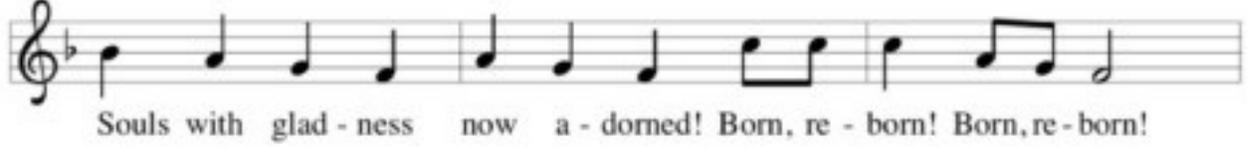
"Born, Reborn"

Refrains - All, vs Lows - Lead, Highs - Echos

Refrain



Born, re - born! Born, re - born! Formed, re - formed!

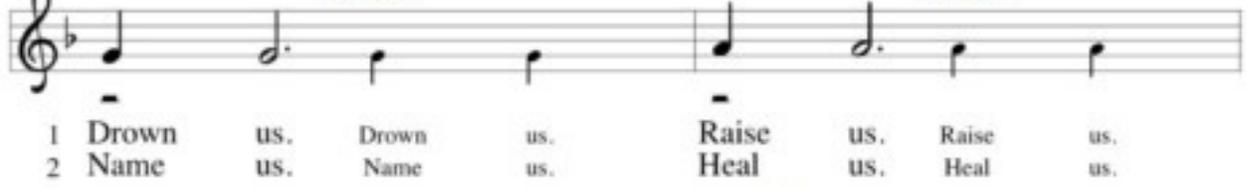


Souls with glad - ness now a - dorned! Born, re - born! Born, re - born!



Formed, re - formed! Praise our God for - ev - er - more!

Echo *Echo*



1 Drown us, Drown us, Raise us, Raise us.
2 Name us, Name us, Heal us, Heal us.

Echo *Echo*



Mark us, Mark us, Claim us!, Claim us!.
Wash us, Wash us, Seal us!, Seal us!

Refrain

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

Lay me low, where the Lord can find me. Lay me low, where the Lord can hold me. Lay me low, where the Lord can bless me. Lay me low, Lord, lay me low.

*After "Generous God," worshipers respond "Pour out your Love."
Repeat "Lay Me Low" 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

For members of the Prince of Peace community, an offering is our expression of gratitude to God and a way we share God's love with the world. If you are visiting with us today, your presence is already a great gift.

Anthem

"Come By Here"
Sanctuary Choir

African-American Spiritual
arr. Kyle Pederson

*Come by Here, my Lord.
Someone's praying, Lord.
Someone's crying, Lord.
In the morning..., in the evening..., in my waking..., in my sleeping,
you are here
In my pleading, waiting, loving, blessing, grieving,
you are here
In my longing, falling, hiding, rising, aching, laughing, praising,
seeking, finding, breathing, dying,
you are here.
Come by here, my Lord. O Lord, you are here*

Stand

Offering Response

"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"
vs. 1 and Lent 3

No. 334

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: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Cantor: Long, long ago in Jerusalem, as the scriptures do record. Isaiah to the temple came to see the holy Lord.

Refrain sung by All

5
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of pow-er and might, God's
glo - ry fills all heav'n and earth, God of pow-er and might.

High on a throne sat the mighty Lord, robes flowing through the hall, while six-winged angels flew above. Isaiah heard the call.

Refrain sung by All

Oh, what a sight it was to see and oh, what a sound to hear! The temple doorposts shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.

Refrain sung by All

Eucharistic Prayer

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the priceless grace you have bestowed upon us through Jesus Christ, who died upon the tree of Calvary and rose again to make us living branches, drawing our life from him and bearing fruit in all the world. Send your Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth and power, to renew our faith as we receive our crucified and risen Lord who comes to us in his body and blood.

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 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

1) O Lamb of God, to earth you came to save us all from
2) O Lamb of God, the on - ly Son, to us show mer - cy,
grief and shame. Shorn of your life, up - on the tree you
Ho - ly One. You save the world from all its sin. Lord,
hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty.
give to us your peace. A - men.

Communion Hymns

“Baptized and Set Free”

No. 453

“Baptized in Water”

No. 456

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 our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, 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: Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are *sick/homebound/imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

All: Amen.

Choir or cantor



1 Sure-ly God is my sal - va - tion, I will trust and shall not fear.
 2 Thus with joy you shall draw wa - ter from sal - va - tion's wells and springs.
 3 Tell the na - tions of God's glo - ry, make this known in all the earth.



God the LORD is strong and might - y, my sal - va - tion true.
 Sing your thanks to God Al - might - y for these won - drous deeds.
 Praise the LORD, the God of Is - rael, call up - on God's name.

Refrain - All



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O Daugh-ter Zi - on!



Sing ho-san-na!
 Great in your midst is the LORD, the Ho - ly One!



Shout a-loud and sing for joy, O daugh - ter Zi - on!



Great in your midst is the LORD, the Ho - ly One!

Dismissal

Asst: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

All: Thanks be to God.

Music for the Close of Worship

“Tree of Life”

Marty Haugen

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Lay Me Low, Text: Shaker Traditional Music; Daniel E. Schwandt ©2013 Daniel E. Schwandt admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Holy, Holy, Holy, Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, Music: *Shady Grove*. Trad. Appalachian©1990, 2013 Augsburg Fortress.

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O Lamb of God to Earth You Came, Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, Music: *The Suffolk Miracle*. Trad. Appalachian©1990, 2013 Augsburg Fortress. Permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual License #SAS006200

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Today's Servers
March 1, 2026

Next Week's Servers
March 8, 2026

Worship Asst.: TBD
Reader: Bette Stemaly
Ushers: Greg Guthrie
Technology: Paul Guthrie, Paul Swodzinski,
Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Jan Ellwitz
Sacristy Asst.: Marilyn Storch
Communion Assts.: Karen Adams, Cam Hart
Altar Guild: Gail MacNellis
Fellowship Host:
Fellowship Treats: Gail MacNellis
Church Lockup: Judson Stemaly

Worship Asst.:
Reader: Melissa Ottesen
Ushers:
Technology: Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Laurie Brown
Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson
Communion Assts.: Annika Eklov, Mackenzie Hart
Altar Guild: Dorothy Tisland
Fellowship Host:
Fellowship Treats:
Church Lockup: Jeremy Zimmerman

Use this QR code to donate online to
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
and it's 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

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

Service/Sermon Notes

- What was the main point or key phrase in the service/ sermon?
- What part of the Bible story or service/ sermon made me say, "HUH?"
- What part of the Bible story or service/ sermon made me say, "AH-HA!?"
- How does the Bible story or service/ sermon apply to my life?

You may take other notes, draw images, or leave other questions/comments about the sermon here.

It is finished.

Wednesdays in Lent

Feb. 25

March 4, 11, 18, 25

Soup Supper 6:00 PM

Prayer around the Cross 7:00 PM

In person or online

www.popportage.org

