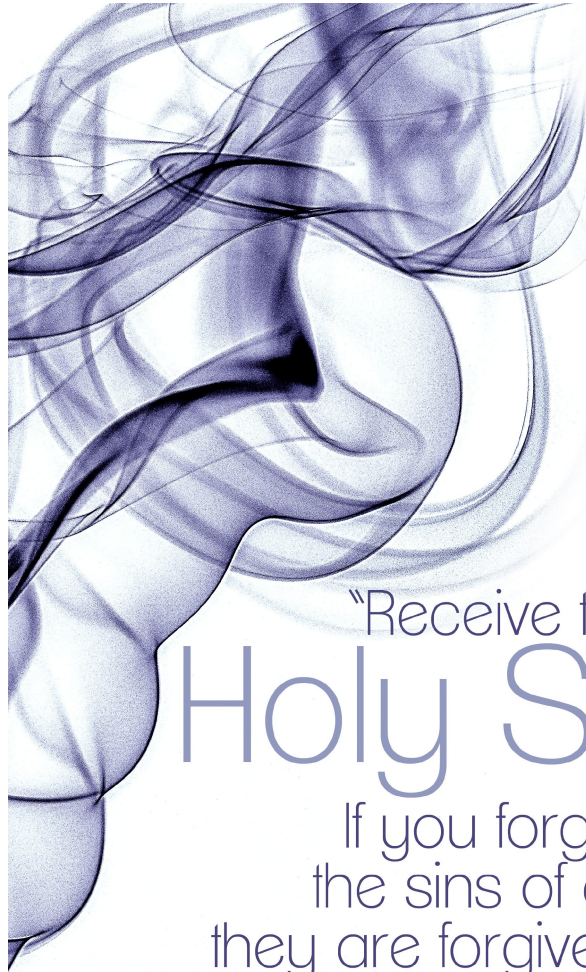


Second Sunday in Easter
Sunday, April 12, 2026 10:30 a.m.



“Receive the
Holy Spirit.

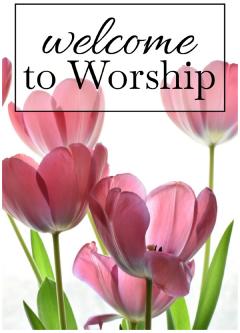
If you forgive
the sins of any,
they are forgiven them;
if you retain
the sins of any,
they are retained.”

John 20:22-23, NRSV

*“Touched by the Gospel, we seek 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!



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.poppportage.org

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Worshippers responses in bold

Music for the Beginning of Worship

"O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"

15th c. French, arr. Francois Dandrieu (1682-1738)

Stand

Welcome

Intern: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Thanksgiving for Baptism

Intern: Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the lamb.

All: **Amen.**

Intern: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism.

Intern: Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

All: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

Intern: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

All: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Intern: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

All: You guide us to springs of the water of life.

Intern: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Gathering Song

"Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!"

No. 377

vs. 1, 2, 5

Prayer of the Day

Intern: Let us pray together:

All: Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

Children's Sermon

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: "Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, 'I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.'

"Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, 'He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.' "This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses."

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 16

Reader: Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the Lord, "You are my Lord, my good above all other." All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.

All: But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied. I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.

Reader: O Lord, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot. My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.

All: I will bless the Lord who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night. I have set the Lord always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

Reader: My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope. For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.

All: You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Sung twice

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. Both staves are in the treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is written on a five-line staff. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' are written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff also ends with a double bar line. The music consists of a series of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to John the 20th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

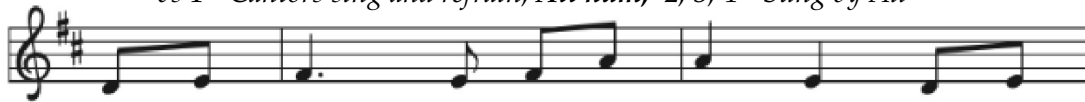
Sit
Sermon

Intern Kathleen Robinson

Stand
Hymn of the Day

"Touch That Soothes and Heals"
vs 1 - Cantors sing and refrain, All hum, 2, 3, 4 - Sung by All

ACS No. 939



1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurt - ing, hands that
2 Feed the hun - gry, clothe the na - ked, vis - it
3 Love and serve with - out dis - tinc - tion all earth's
4 Hands that beck - on lit - tle chil - dren, bind a



break a loaf of bread; steps that walk be - side the
ones in need of care, give the home - less warmth and
peo - ple, first and least. Know with - in each act of
wound, pre - pare a meal, feet that rush to share good



wea - ry, bear - ing bur - dens in their stead:
shel - ter: Christ will find a wel - come there.
kind - ness hope and whole - ness are in - creased.
tid - ings, Christ a - ris - en, still re - veal.

Refrain



"See my hands and feet," said Je - sus, love a - ris - en from the



grave. "Be my hands and feet," said Je - sus, "live as



ones I died to save."

Apostles' Creed

Asst: Joining with 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

"Hallelujah"

5 Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; and we
lift our voice be - fore you as a to - ken of our love, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

After "Generous God," worshipers respond "Pour out your Love."
Repeat "Hallelujah" after the completion of the intercessory prayers.

WE SHARE IN THE WORD

Sharing of the Peace

Intern: The peace of the Risen 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.

Stand

Offering Response

"O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"

first line at the beginning and after the last verse

No. 386

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

7
1) O sons and daugh - ters, let us sing with heav'n - ly hosts to Christ our
5) When Thom - as first the ti - dings heard, that they had seen the ris - en
6) My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see and look u - pon my hands, my
7) No long - er Thom - as then de - nied; he saw the feet, the hands, the
9) On this most ho - ly day of days, be laud and ju - bi - lee and
14
King: to - day the grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
Lord, he doubt - ed the dis - ci - ples' word, Al - le - lu - ia!
feet; not faith - less, but be - liev - ing be." Al - le - lu - ia!
side; "You are my Lord and God!" he cried. Al - le - lu - ia!
praise: to God your hearts and voic - es raise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Offering Prayer

Asst.: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts – ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

Thanksgiving of the Word

Intern: Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

All: we give you thanks and praise.

Intern: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

All: we give you thanks and praise.

Intern: Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

All: we give you thanks and praise.

Intern: Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Intern: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

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

Intern: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises”

No. 535

Dismissal

Asst: Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Music for the Close of Worship

This Week's Servers

April 12, 2026

Worship Asst.: Em Witteveen
Reader: Tyler Baas-Peterson
Ushers: Lee Banitt, Greg Guthrie, Erin & Ron Leverage
Technology: Mark Clyne, Jackson Seguin, Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Lynne Wathen
Sacristy Asst.: Marilyn Storch
Fellowship Host:
Fellowship Treats: None Needed
Church Lockup: Steve Pendziszewski
Mowers: Karl Klemm, Pete Eldridge

Next Week's Servers

April 19, 2026

Worship Asst.: Claudia Lee
Reader: Gary Bischof
Ushers: Kay Kincaid
Technology: Mark Clyne, Paul Guthrie, Mike Whately
Prayer Station:
Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson
Communion Assts.: Micki Holder
Altar Guild: Dianne Hellman
Fellowship Host:
Fellowship Treats: None Needed
Church Lockup: Dennis Stalker
Mowers: Gary Bischof, John Thommen



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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
and it's ministries.

See the Peace Proclamations for more details.

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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