

Third Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 19, 2026 10:30 a.m.



*"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 Playground 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.poppoortage.org

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Worshippers responses in bold

Music for the Beginning of Worship

"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"

arr. J. G. Walther

Welcome

Stand

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Thanksgiving for Baptism

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

All: Amen.

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

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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: 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.

Stand

Gathering Song

“With High Delight Let Us Unite”

No. 368

Greeting

Pastor: The grace of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray,

All: O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

Reader: I love the Lord, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication, for the Lord has given ear to me whenever I called.

All: The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow. Then I called upon the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray you, save my life.”

Reader: How shall I repay the Lord for all the good things God has done for me?

Low: I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

High: *I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God’s people.*

Reader: Precious in your sight, O Lord, is the death of your servants.

Low: O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

High: I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.

All: I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all God's people, in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-23

If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person's work, live in fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

Sung twice

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

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

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 24th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they

did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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

Sit
Sermon

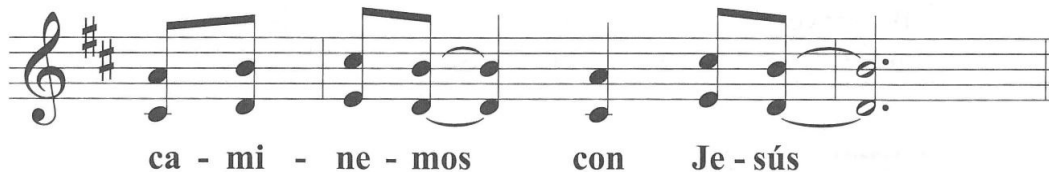
Intern Kathleen Robinson

Stand
Hymn of the Day

"Caminemos con Jesús"

ACS No. 1061

*The Cantors sing the verses and throughout the verses,
the congregation responds: caminemos con Jesús (let us walk with Jesus.) Refrains sung by All,*



Como un pueblo crucificado: **caminemos con Jesús**
as a crucified people

Con su cruz él nos ha salvado: **caminemos con Jesús**
by his cross he has saved us

Como un cuerpo nos ha formado: **caminemos con Jesús**
as one body he has formed us

Con él hemos resucitado: **caminemos con Jesús**
with him we have risen

Refrain (all)

Ca-mi - ne-mos con Je-sús, ca-mi - ne-mos con su cruz,
ca - mi - ne - mos el ca - mi - no que él i - lu -
mi-na con su luz. As com - pan - ions on the way,
let us live the words we pray.
With the ones the world has turned a - way,
ca - mi - ne - mos con Je - sús.

In the borderland of Galilee: **caminemos con Jesús**
In the silent hours of Calvary: **caminemos con Jesús**
In the pain of his humanity: **caminemos con Jesús**
In the rising that has set us free: **caminemos con Jesús**

Refrain

A su imagen somos creados: **caminemos con Jesús**
in his image we are created
Para amar como él nos ha amado: **caminemos con Jesús**
to love as he has loved us
Y anunciar a los abandonados: **caminemos con Jesús**
to announce to the abandoned
La Buena nueva que él ha proclamado: **caminemos con Jesús**
the Good News he has proclaimed

Refrain

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 HIS MEAL

Sharing of the Peace

Pastor: 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.

Offering Music

"We Walked Down the Road"

Robert Kreutz

*We walked down the road that dark cloudy day, and met a man going our way;
We walked and we talked of what had been done, how hope had been taken away, taken way.*

*We walked in the dusk and came to an inn: "With us, sir, you surely must stay,
For evening is near and dark closes in, we've come to the end of the day, the end of the day."*

*At supper that night he took of the bread, he broke it, the blessing he said;
He went from our sight, but opened our eyes; we knew by the Lord we were fed,
by the Lord we were fed, by the Lord we were fed.*

*This man, when he spoke, made our hearts burn within, set lives all aflame with his word;
In breaking of bread, in things that he said, Lord Jesus was seen and was heard, was seen and was heard.*

*Again we must walk a long lonely road, a path that is dark and untried;
There's someone whose step and welcome we hear; Lord Jesus will walk by our side, will walk by our side.*

*At supper that night he took of the bread, he broke it, the blessing he said;
He went from our sight, but opened our eyes, We knew by the Lord we were fed,
by the Lord we were fed, by the Lord we were fed.*

*Come join us, O Lord, companion and friend, bring bread that we'll need on our way;
gain our poor hearts are burning within, aflame from the words that you say, the word that you say.*

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*

Stand

Offering Response

“The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing”

No. 531

1 The trumpets sound, the angels sing, the feast is ready to begin.
The gates of heav'n are open wide, and Jesus welcomes you inside.

Refrain

Sing with thankfulness songs of pure delight. Come and revel in heaven's love and light. Take your place at the table of the King. The feast is ready to begin. The feast is ready to begin.

Offering Prayer

Asst.: Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

All: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving - Grace Before the Meal

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is for the Presider and Congregation, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you. And al-so with you." The second staff is for the Presider and Congregation, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." The third staff is for the Presider and Congregation, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is". The fourth staff is for the Presider and Congregation, with the lyrics "right to give God thanks and praise."

Pastor: It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God through Jesus Christ who by his death on the cross and glorious resurrection broke the bonds of sin and death and gave life to all creation, and so with the church on earth, all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy,



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Pastor: 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 to you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it 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: 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.

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)Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 2)Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and
 world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on
 peace: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on
 us. 3)Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the
 us.
 world: grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

“Come, Let Us Eat”

No. 491

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

No. 539

Table Blessing

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

Asst.: Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

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 siblings 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 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: 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

“Day of Arising”

No. 374

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Music for the Close of Worship

“Abide, O Dearest Jesus”

arr. Johann Pachelbel

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This Week's Servers

April 19, 2026

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

Next Week's Servers

April 26, 2026

Worship Asst.: Harry Biles
Reader: Laurie Brown
Ushers: Greg Guthrie, Kay Kincaid,
Dave Reinhold
Technology: Jackson Sequin, Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Jan Ellwitz
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov
Communion Assts.:
Altar Guild: Diane Snyder
Fellowship Host:
Fellowship Treats: Martha Irons
Church Lockup: Mary Clyne



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

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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