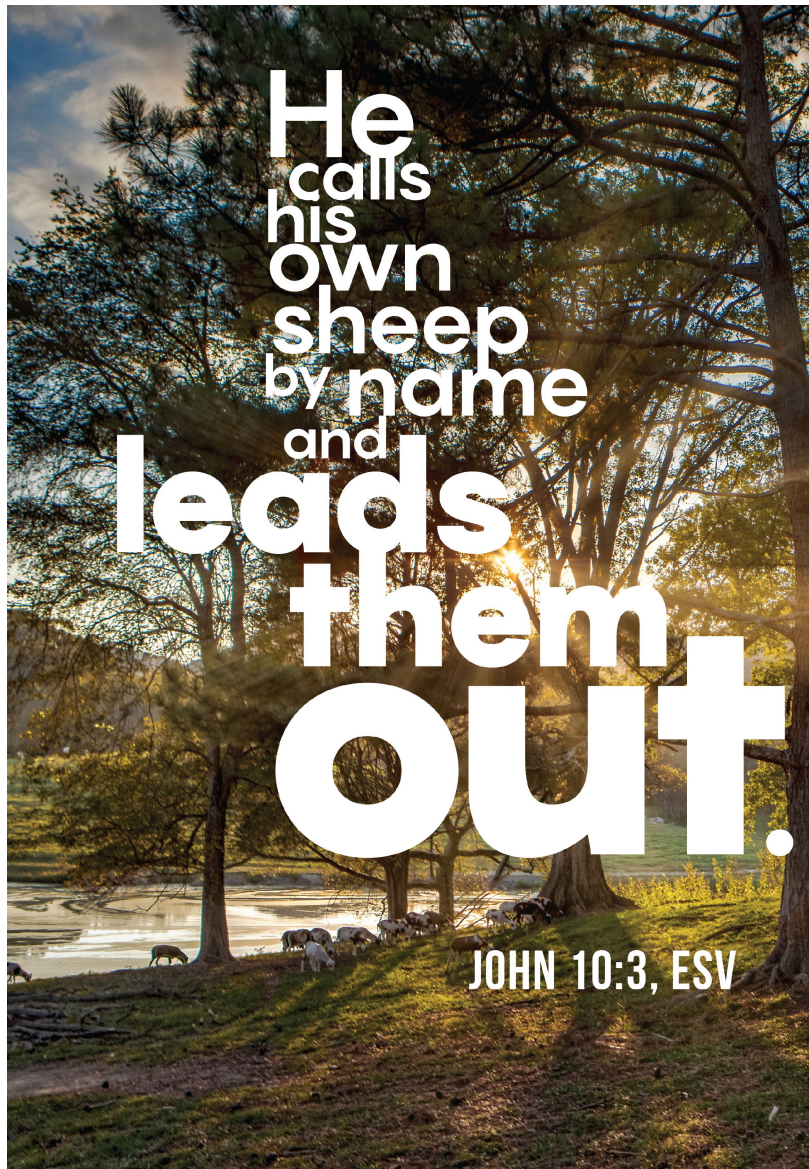


Fourth Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 26, 2026 10:30 a.m.



*"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.poppottage.org

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Worshippers responses in bold

Music for the Beginning of Worship

"At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

arr. Ernst Pepping

Stand

Welcome

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

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!”

No. 385

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 our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through 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

Scripture Reading

Acts 2:42-47

[The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 23



Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death in-to life.

Reader: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

All: **He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;** *Refrain*

Reader: He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

All: **Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff – they comfort me.** *Refrain*

Reader: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

All: **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.** *Refrain*

Second Reading

1 Peter 2:19-25

It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

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

John 10:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to John the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Laughlin

The
sheep
follow
him
because
they
know
his
voice.

John 10:4, NRSV





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!



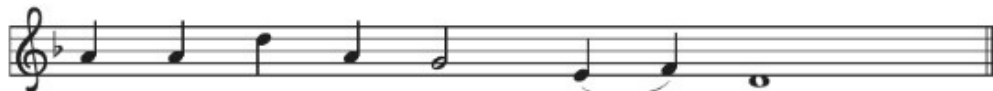
You, peace - mak - er and sword - bring - er
shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - t'ry;



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 guide.
you, who are our death and life.

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 Anthem

“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

arr. Ann Hartley

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 at last verse

Offering Response

“At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”
vs. 1, 8, stand at last verse

No. 362

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.

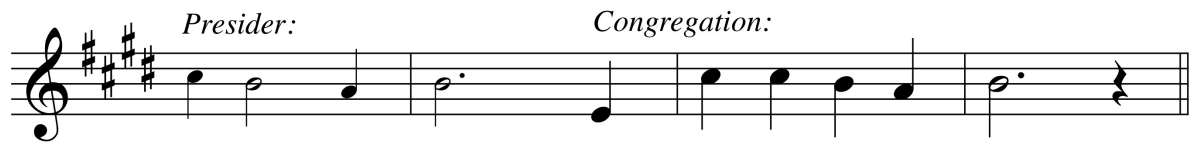
Great Thanksgiving - Grace Before the Meal

Presider: *Congregation:*



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

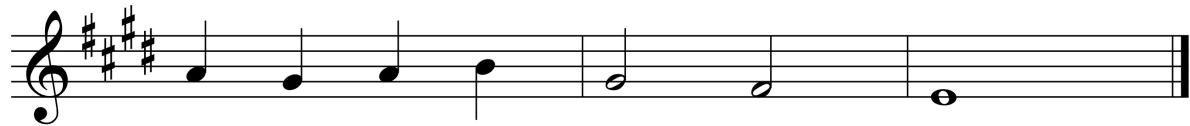


Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is



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
7 peace: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on
us.
us. 3)Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the
10 world: grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

“My Shepherd, You Supply My Need”

No. 782

“Have No Fear Little Flock”

No. 764

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.*****WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE***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**

“Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us”

No. 789

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**Music for the Close of Worship**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing”

arr. Healey Willan

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This 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.: Jolaine Snyder, Sandy Mertz, Kathleen Robinson
Altar Guild: Diane Snyder
Fellowship Host: Gail MacNellis
Fellowship Treats: Martha Irons
Church Lockup: Mary Clyne

Next Week's Servers

May 3, 2026

Worship Asst.: Noel Sederstrom
Reader: Karen Adams
Ushers: Kay Kincaid, Lee Banitt
Technology: Mike Whately
Prayer Station:
Sacristy Asst.: Marilyn Storch
Communion Assts.: Sue Jones, Mackenzie Hart, Cam Hart, Annika Eklov
Altar Guild:
Fellowship Host:
Fellowship Treats: Alex Baas-Peterson
Church Lockup: Laurie Brown



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

