

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**  
Sunday, May 10, 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: [poppportage.org](http://poppportage.org)  
Prayer-mail: [prayer@poppportage.org](mailto:prayer@poppportage.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](http://www.poppottage.org)

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

*Worshippers responses in bold*

### Music for the Beginning of Worship

"Children of the Heavenly Father"

arr. J. Wayne Kerr

*Sit*

**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**

*“Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”  
vs. 1, 3, 5 - All, vs. 2 - High, vs. 4 - Low*

No. 392

**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: Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

*Sit*

**Scripture Reading**

Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him— though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

“Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

Psalm 66:8-20

Reader: Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

**All: Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip. For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.**

*High: You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.*

*Low: You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.*

*High: I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows – those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.*

*Low: I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.*

Reader: Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me. I called out to God with my mouth and praised the Lord with my tongue. If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me; but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.

**All: Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.**

**Second Reading**

1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

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 4/4 time signature. 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 melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. There are rests under the syllables 'le' and 'lu' in both staves.

**Gospel Reading**

John14:15-21

The Holy Gospel according to John the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

"I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**Sermon**

Intern Kathleen Robinson

*Sing as directed, sermon between stanzas*

If you love me and you know it, clap your hands.  
If you love me and you know it, clap your hands.  
If you love me and you know it, then your faith will surely show it.  
If you love me and you know it, clap your hands.

If you love me and you know it, stomp your feet.  
If you love me and you know it, stomp your feet.  
If you love me and you know it, then your faith will surely show it.  
If you love me and you know it, stomp your feet.

If you love me and you know it, make a cross.  
If you love me and you know it, make a cross.  
If you love me and you know it, then your faith will surely show it.  
If you love me and you know it, make a cross.

If you love me and you know it, welcome all.  
If you love me and you know it, welcome all.  
If you love me and you know it, then your faith will surely show it.  
If you love me and you know it, welcome all.

If you love me and you know it, shout Amen - "Amen!"  
If you love me and you know it, shout Amen - "Amen!"  
If you love me and you know it, then your faith will surely show it.  
If you love me and you know it, shout Amen - "Amen!"

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: \*Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, de - scend on us, de - . The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: scend on us. We gath - er here in Je - sus'. The third system shows the vocal line and piano accompaniment with a long melisma. The lyrics are: name. (hm). The piano accompaniment features a long, sweeping line across the three systems.

- 2 Come, great Creator, . . .
- 3 Come to unite us, . . .
- 4 Come to disturb us, . . .

### Apostles' Creed

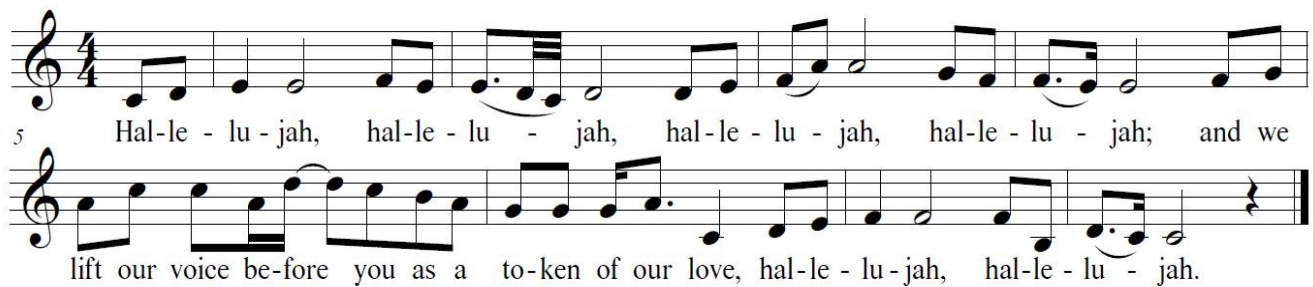
Asst.: Joining with the saints of every time and place, we confess our faith:

**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



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.*

### 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 Response

*"Oh, Sing to the Lord"  
vs. 1 in Spanish, vs. 2-5 in English, stand for last verse.*

No. 822


### 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:*

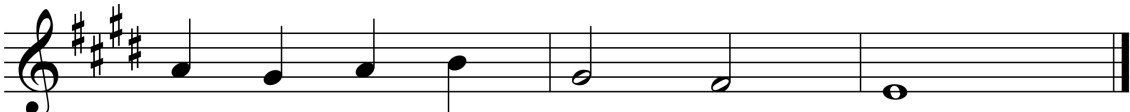


Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*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, 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.

**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**

"We Know That Christ Is Raised"

No. 449

**Dismissal**

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

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**Music for the Close of Worship**

"We Know That Christ Is Raised"

arr. David Schack

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This Week's Servers

May 10, 2026

Worship Asst.: Kathleen Robinson  
Reader: Gary Bischof  
Ushers: Greg Guthrie  
Technology: Mark Clyne, Paul Swodzinski, Mike Whately  
Prayer Station:  
Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson  
Communion Assts.: Karen Adams, Pam Timm  
Altar Guild: Gail MacNellis  
Fellowship Host: Church Council  
Fellowship Treats: Church Council  
Church Lockup: Mary Clyne  
Mowers: Bill Hellman, Dale Holder

Next Week's Servers

May 17, 2026

Worship Asst.: Harry Biles  
Reader: Bette MacKenzie  
Ushers: Lee Banitt  
Technology: Paul Guthrie, Paul Swodzinski,  
Mike Whately  
Prayer Station: Karen Adams  
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov  
Communion Assts.: Annika Eklov, Cam Hart,  
Mackenzie Hart, Pam Timm  
Altar Guild: Verity Poisson  
Fellowship Host: Idy Stemaly  
Fellowship Treats:  
Church Lockup: Don Eklov  
Mowers: Pete Eldridge, Karl Klemm



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

