

## Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, June 21, 2026 10:30 a.m.



**Whoever**  
finds their life  
will lose it,  
—— and ——  
**Whoever**  
loses their life  
for my sake  
will find it.

**MATTHEW 10:39, NIV**

*"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 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](http://www.poppottage.org)

### WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

*Worshippers responses in bold*

*Sit*

### **Music for the Beginning of Worship**

### **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, whose compassion endures forever.

**All: Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin to God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Pastor: Compassionate God,

**All: we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Pastor: Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love.

**All: Amen.**

**Gathering Song**

"Let the Whole Creation Cry"

No. 876

**Greeting**

Pastor: The grace of our 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: Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Sit*

**The Children's Sermon**

**WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

**Scripture Reading**

Jeremiah 20:7-13

O Lord, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out; I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him and take our revenge on him." But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten. O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous; you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

Sing to the Lord; praise the Lord! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm**

Psalm 69:7-10; 16-18

Reader: Surely, for your sake I have suffered reproach, and shame has covered my face. I have become a stranger to my own kindred, an alien to my mother's children. Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me. I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my reproach.

**All: Answer me, O Lord, for your love is kind; in your great compassion, turn to me. Hide not your face from your servant; be swift and answer me, for I am in distress. Draw near to me and redeem me; because of my enemies deliver me.**

**Second Reading**

Romans 6:1b-11

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**Gospel Acclamation**

*A - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!*

*A - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya!*  
*Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia!*

*A - le - lu - ya,      a - le - lu - ya,*  
*Al - le - lu - ia,      al - le - lu - ia,*

*a - le - lu - ya!      A - le - lu - ya!*  
*al - le - lu - ia!      Al - le - lu - ia!*

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 10:24-39

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the twelve:] "A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

"So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

“Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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

*Sit*  
**Sermon**

Pastor Rachel Laughlin

*Stand*  
**Hymn of the Day**

“How Firm a Foundation”

No. 796

**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 O God, we call, O God, we call, from  
9 deep in - side we yearn, from deep in - side we yearn, from  
deep in - side we yearn for you.

*After “Generous God,” worshipers respond “Pour out your Love.”  
Repeat “O God, we call” after the completion of the intercessory prayers.*

**WE SHARE IN HIS MEAL**

**Sharing of 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.

**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**

"When It Seems the Day Will End"  
High - lead refrain, Low - Echo

ACS No. 1034



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"  
*Low - verses, High - Echo, Stand for last verse*

ACS No. 1034

*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* *Refrain*

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

**Offering Prayer**

Asst.: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**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: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### Holy, Holy, Holy

1  
You are ho-ly you are whole. You are al-ways ev-er - more than we ev-er un-der - stand.  
6  
— You are al-ways at hand, Bless-ed are you com-ing near. — Bless-ed are you com-ing here  
12  
— to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.  
16  
2  
— You are ho - ly, — you are whole - ness, — you are pre - sent. —  
22  
— Let the cos-mos praise you Lord! — Sing ho - san - na — in the high - est! —  
28  
— Sing ho - san - na! — Sing ho - san - na to our God!

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

Cor - de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

ten pie-dad de no - so-tros, ten pie-dad de no - so-tros.  
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.

Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;  
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .

da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.  
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

“Guide My Feet”



1 Guide my feet  
2 Hold my hand  
3 Stand by me while I run this race.  
4 I'm your child  
5 Search my heart



Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
I'm your child  
Search my heart



Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
I'm your child  
Search my heart



for I don't want to run this race in vain.

**Table Blessing**

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

Asst.: Compassionate God, through the gifts of bread and wine our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love. Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal, may share your love freely, as you have shared with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

**Sending of Communion**

*Communion ministers may be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent.*

Pastor: Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick/homebound/imprisoned. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed 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: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

**All: Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

“My Life Flows On in Endless Song”

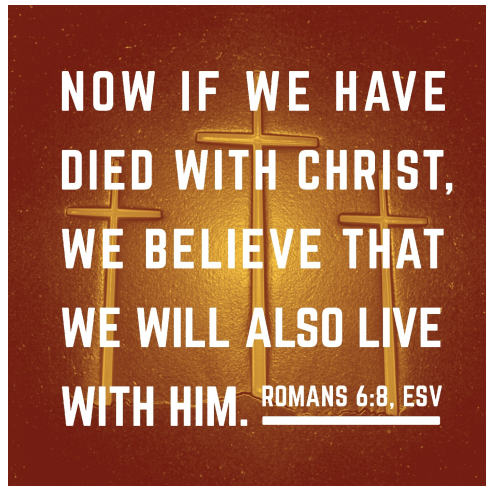
No. 763

**Dismissal**

Asst.: Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Music for the Close of Worship**



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### This Week's Servers

June 21, 2026

Worship Asst.: Em Witteveen  
Reader: Marilyn Storch  
Ushers: Greg Guthrie, Kay Kincaid  
Technology: Paul Guthrie, Mike Whately  
Prayer Station: Laurie Brown  
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov  
Communion Assts.: Cam Hart  
Altar Guild: Verity Poisson  
Fellowship Host: Fellowship Committee  
Fellowship Treats: Fellowship Committee  
Church Lockup: Jeremy Zimmerman  
Mowers: Karl Klemm, Pete Eldridge

### Next Week's Servers

June 28, 2026



Worship Asst.:  
Reader:  
Ushers:  
Technology: Mark Clyne, Mike Whately,  
Prayer Station:  
Sacristy Asst.: Marilyn Storch  
Communion Assts.: Cam & MacKenzie Hart, Annika Eklov  
Altar Guild: Dianne Hellman  
Fellowship Host: Idy Stemaly  
Fellowship Treats: Bette Stemaly  
Church Lockup: Alison Carlson  
Mowers: Gary Bischof, John Thommen

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