

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Lectionary 14: US Semiquincentennial, Year A
Sunday, July 5, 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 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

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Worshippers responses in bold

Sit

Music for the Beginning of Worship

Theme and Variations on "Simple Gifts"

arr. Michael Burkhardt

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, source of hope in every nation, rest for the weary, glory and peace to the ends of the earth.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us bring every burden to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: God of all mercy,

All: we have sinned against you, our neighbors, and your creation. Within ourselves and our communities, our desire to do what is good is at war with the evil that dwells in us. We lament the evil that holds us captive. We repent of the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Rescue us, forgive us, and restore us for lives of compassion and courage through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Pastor: All-merciful, Almighty God forgive you all your sins through the grace of ☩ Jesus Christ, and by the Spirit's power strengthen you in doing what is good.

All: Amen.

Gathering Song

"Gather Us In"

No. 532

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: Lord of all the worlds, guide this nation by your Spirit to go forward in justice and freedom. Give to all living in these lands the blessings of well-being and harmony, but above all things give us faith in you, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sit

The Children's Sermon

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading

Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 145:8-14

Reader: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Lord, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.

All: All your works shall praise you, O Lord, and your faithful ones shall bless you. They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power, that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

High: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.

Low: You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

All: The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

Second Reading

Romans 7:15-25a

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

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 11:16-19, 25-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 11th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus spoke to the crowd saying:] “To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

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

Sit
Sermon

Pastor Rachel Laughlin

Stand
Hymn of the Day

"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

No. 611

Apostles' Creed

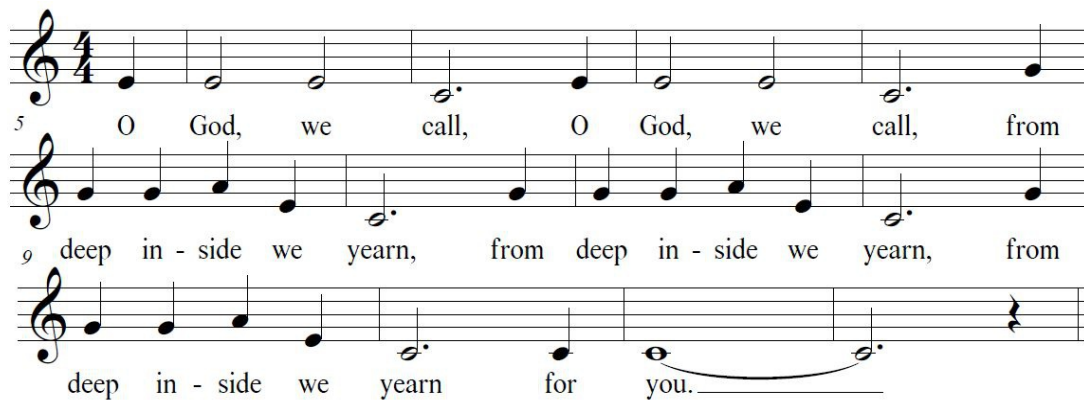
Asst.: Joining with the saints of every time and place, we confess our faith:

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

*"This Is My Song"
stand for last verse*

No. 887

Offering Prayer

Asst.: Blessed are you, O God, for waves of grain and harvesters, fruitful vines and winepresses, for our labor and our rest, for the gifts of your hand in this land. Transform us and what we offer into the banquet of your compassion, serving your love without limits through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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.

Communion Hymns

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

No. 726

“We’ve Come This Far by Faith”
Refrains by All, verses by Cantors

No. 633

Table Blessing

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

Asst.: We thank you, God of heaven and earth, that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads 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

Worshipers 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: The Author of life, the Word of salvation, the Breath of new birth, ☩ one God, bless you and equip you for living and serving, today and every day.

All: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Let Streams of Living Justice”

No. 710

Dismissal

Asst.: Heaven has come near. Seek liberty and justice for all.

All: Thanks be to God.

Music for the Close of Worship

Festival March

“Battle Hymn of the Republic” and “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Today’s Prelude and Postlude come from "A Celebration of Many People, The Balboa Park Organ Suite" composed to celebrate San Diego’s unique and historic Spreckles outdoor pipe organ, which was given in 1914, for the free use and enjoyment not only of the people of San Diego, but “for the people of all the world." This vision was the inspiration for the organ's 80th anniversary commissioning of this musical celebration by Michael Burkhardt. Other parts of the suite include settings of a Korean hymn and folk melody and a Puerto Rican Christmas Carol.

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This Week's Servers

July 5, 2026

Worship Asst.: Claudia Lee
Reader: Sharey Biles
Ushers: Lee Banitt, Greg Guthrie
Technology: Mark Clyne, Paul Guthrie, Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Laurie Brown
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov
Communion Assts.: Melissa Ottesen, Pam Timm
Altar Guild: Gail MacNellis
Fellowship Host: Tammy Cooper, Tamara Preston
Fellowship Treats: None Needed
Church Lockup: Steve Pendziszewski
Mowers: Steve Creed, Tom Palarz

Next Week's Servers

July 12, 2026



Worship Asst.:
Reader: Gary Bischof
Ushers:
Technology: Paul Guthrie, Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Lynne Wathen
Sacristy Asst.: Marilyn Storch
Communion Assts.: Claudia Lee
Altar Guild: Diane Snyder
Fellowship Host:
Fellowship Treats:
Church Lockup: Laurie Brown
Mowers: Dave Walch, Greg Hannemann

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	Intern: Kathleen Robinson ext 15
Administrative Asst: Tamara Preston ext 10	Music Director: Janet Hill ext 16
Accountant: Marilyn Storch ext 14	Custodian: Open ext 20
Technology Manager: Mike Whately ext 13	Nursery: Melissa Copeland & Megan Zimmerman ext 17
Engagement Coor: Em Witteveen ext 12	Care Team Email: prayer@popportage.org

MY SERMON notes

date: / /

today's scriptures

Four horizontal rectangular boxes stacked vertically, intended for writing today's scriptures.

things to remember

Three large, rounded rectangular boxes stacked vertically, intended for writing things to remember. A small green monstera plant illustration is positioned to the left of the top box.

prayers



to study at home:

