

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 16, 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.popportage.org

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Worshippers responses in bold

Sit

Music for the Beginning of Worship

"Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service"

arr. Mark Sedio

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 "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service" No. 712

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: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sit

The Children's Sermon

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the Lord: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed.

And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm Psalm 67

Reader: May God be merciful to us and bless us; may the light of God's face shine upon us.
All: Let your way be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.
High: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
All: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations on earth.
Low: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.
Reader: The earth has brought forth its increase; God, our own God, has blessed us.
All: May God give us blessing, and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe.

Second Reading

Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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 15:13-21

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Stand
Hymn of the Day

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

No. 588

Apostles' Creed

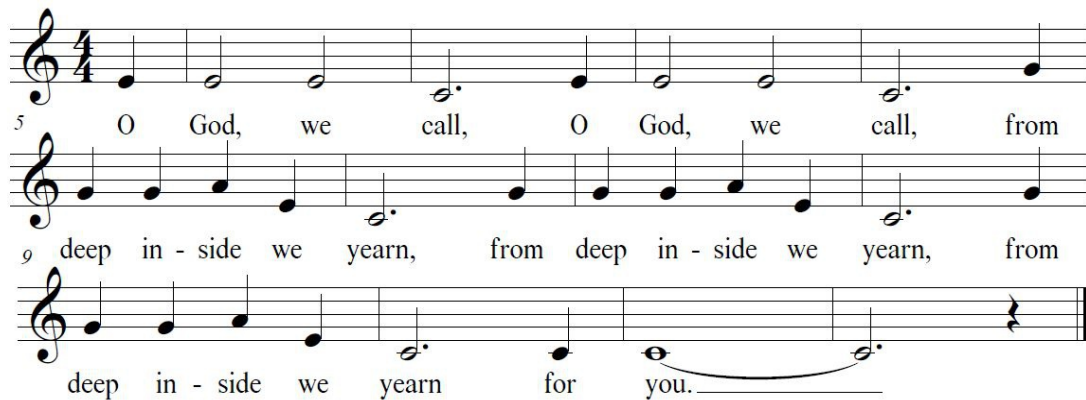
Asst.: Joining with the saints of every time and place, we confess our faith:

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



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 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.



1 Build a long - er ta - ble, not a high - er wall,
 2 Build a saf - er ref - uge, not a larg - er jail;
 3 Build a broad - er door - way, not a long - er fence.
 4 When we lived as ex - iles, ref - u - gees a - broad,



feed - ing those who hun - ger, mak - ing room for all.
 where the weak find shel - ter, mer - cy will not fail.
 Love pro - tects all peo - ple, spar - ing no ex - pense.
 Christ be - came our door - way to the reign of God.



Feast - ing to - geth - er, strang - er turns to friend,
 For an - y place where jus - tice is de - nied,
 When we em - brace com - pas - sion more than fear,
 So must our ta - bles wel - come those who roam.



Christ breaks walls to piec - es; false di - vi - sions end.
 Christ will breach the jail wall, free - ing all in - side.
 Christ tears down our fenc - es; all are wel - come here.
 None can be ex - clud - ed; all must find a home.

"One Bread, One Body"

No. 496

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

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.*

Farewell and Godspeed

A representative of the congregation addressed the intern/vicar whose call is concluding with these or similar words.

Gary: Kathleen, on September 7, 2025, we at Prince of Peace welcomed you to be an intern in this place: to observe, participate in, and lead in the full stretch of Gospel ministry among us. With the Gospel you have comforted us in times of sickness and trouble, and at the death of loved ones. Sharing our joys and sorrows you have been important to our life together in the church of Jesus Christ, in service to this community, and in God's mission to the whole world. As you leave this community of faith, we say farewell, and we pray for God's blessing.

The leader addresses the assembly with these or similar words.

Pastor: People of God, members and friends of Prince of Peace, do you release Kathleen from service as your intern?

All: We do, and we give thanks to God for our ministry together.

Pastor: Kathleen, do you recognize and accept the completion of your ministry with Prince of Peace?

Kathleen: I do, and I give thanks to God for our ministry together.

The presiding minister leads the assembly in prayer in these or similar words

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, through your Son Jesus Christ you gave the holy apostles many gifts and commanded them to feed your flock. You equip your people with abilities that differ according to the grace given to them, and you call them to various avenues of service. We give you thanks for the ministry of Kathleen among the people of God in this place. You watch over our going out and our coming in: Bless this time of ending and beginning. You surround your people in every time and place: Keep us close in your love. You accompany your people in times of joy and times of trial: Prosper all that has been done to your glory in this time together, Heal and forgive all that has fallen short of your will for us. Help Kathleen and all of us to live with courage and gladness in the future you have given to us. As she has been a blessing to us, so now send her forth to be a blessing to others; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

Stand

Final Blessing

Pastor: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, ☩ one God, bless, heal, and hold you today and always.

All: Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Oh, Praise the Gracious Power"
vs. 1, 2, 4, 7

No. 651

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Music for the Close of Worship

"Siyahamba/Thuma Mina: A Marriage of African and American Jazz"

arr. Mark Sedio

This Week's Servers

August 16, 2026

Worship Asst.: Em Witteveen
Reader: Karen Adams
Ushers: Greg Guthrie
Technology: Paul Guthrie, Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Jan Ellwitz
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov
Communion Assts.: Cam Hart, Micki Holder,
Sandy Mertz, Kathleen Robinson
Altar Guild: Diane Snyder
Fellowship Host: Gail MacNellis, Tamara Preston
Fellowship Treats: Alex Baas-Peterson
Church Lockup: Alison Carlson
Mowers: Dale Holder, Don Mertz

Next Week's Servers

August 23, 2026

Worship Asst.:
Reader: Marilyn Storch
Ushers: Kay Kincaid
Technology: Mark Clyne, Mike Whately,
Prayer Station: Jan Ellwitz
Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson
Communion Assts.: Diane Snyder
Altar Guild: Dianne Hellman
Fellowship Host: Staff
Fellowship Treats:
Church Lockup: Sandy Mertz
Mowers: Karl Klemm, Pete Eldridge

Use this QR code
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and it's ministries.
See the Peace Proclamations
for more details.



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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Staff

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Technology Manager: Mike Whately ext 13

Engagement Coor: Em Witteveen ext 12

Intern: Kathleen Robinson ext 15

Music Director: Janet Hill ext 16

Custodian: Open ext 20

Nursery: Melissa Copeland & Megan Zimmerman ext 17

Care Team Email: prayer@popportage.org

MY SERMON notes

date: / /

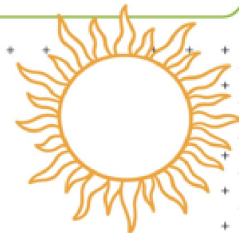
today's scriptures

things to remember

prayers



to study at home:



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.

