

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 23, 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

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

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, 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 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" No. 815

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: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sit

The Children's Sermon

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reading Isaiah 51:1-6

Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug. Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

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

Psalm Psalm 138

Reader: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise. I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word above all things. When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.
All: All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth. They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.

Reader: The Lord is high, yet cares for the lowly, perceiving the haughty from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me.

All: **You will make good your purpose for me; O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.**

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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 16:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood

has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

Sermon

Pastor Rachel Laughlin

Stand

Hymn of the Day

“God, Give Me Faith Like a Child”

1. God, give me faith like a child— faith of
2. God, give me hope like a child— hope of
3. God, give me love like a child— love of

hows, and whats, and whys; faith that
day - dreams and, de - light; hope that
o - ver - flow - ing grace; love that's

won - ders, laughs, and cries; faith to
seeks be - yond my sight; hope that
ea - ger to em - brace; love that

grow, ex - plore, and find all that
sings in spite of fear when the
calls to dance and play ev - 'ry -

moves my search - ing mind— God, give me
fu - ture is - n't clear— God, give me
one who comes my way— God, give me

faith like a child.
hope like a child.
love like a child.

Apostles' Creed

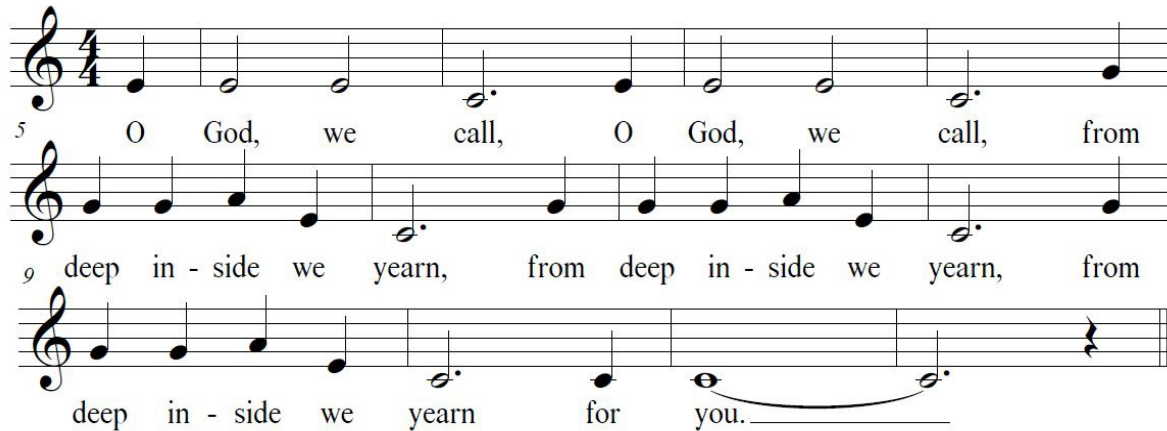
Asst.: Joining with the saints of every time and place, we confess our faith:

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 Response

*"The Church's One Foundation"
stand for last verse*

No. 654

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.

— You are al-ways at hand, Bless-ed are you com-ing near. — Bless-ed are you com-ing here

— to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2

— You are ho - ly, — you are whole - ness, — you are pre - sent. —

— Let the cos-mos praise you Lord! — Sing ho - san - na — in the high - est! —

— 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, 8 grant us your peace.

"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

WOV No. 783

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le -

1) Seek ye ___ first the ___ king - dom of God and its ___ righ - teous -
 2) Ask and it shall be ___ giv-en un - to you; seek and you shall
 3) We do not live by ___ bread a - lone but by ___ ev' - ry ___

lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

ness, ___ and all these things shall be add - ed un-to you.
 find; ___ knock and the door shall be o - pened un-to you.
 word ___ that pro - ceeds from the mouth ___ of ___ God.

Al - le - lu - ia

Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia,
 Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

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

"We All Are One in Mission"

No. 576

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Music for the Close of Worship

"Praise God, Praise Him"

arr. Michael Burkhardt



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This Week's Servers

August 23, 2026

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

Next Week's Servers

August 30, 2026

Worship Asst.:
Reader:
Ushers: Kay Kincaid, Mike Curry
Technology: Mark Clyne, Paul Guthrie, Mike Whately,
Prayer Station: Jan Ellwitz
Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson
Communion Assts.: Annika Eklov, MacKenzie Hart
Altar Guild: Gail MacNellis
Fellowship Host: Staff
Fellowship Treats:
Church Lockup: Jenny Deming
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: Open

Music Director: Janet Hill ext 16

Custodian: Open ext 20

Nursery: Melissa Copeland & Megan Zimmerman ext 17

Care Team Email: prayer@popportage.org