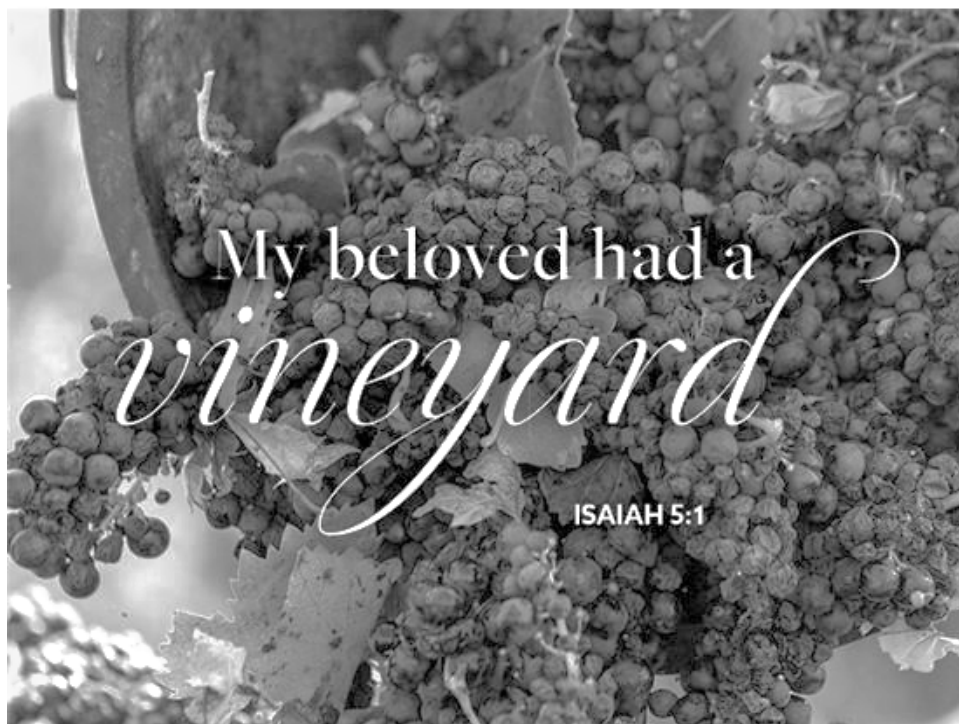


NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 4, 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, single-stall) 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 front of the left pews is equipped with quiet activities and soft toys for little ones. Parents are invited to sit nearby to assist children in engaging in worship in an age-appropriate manner. The service is audible in the Gathering Space, if you need to step out for a time. For children who need a louder place to play, the staffed nursery is available to the left as you exit the sanctuary.
- 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

MUSIC FOR THE BEGINNING OF WORSHIP

Canon - Robert Schumann

WELCOME

Stand

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Pastor: Beloved of God, creation sings of God's goodness. The rivers clap their hands. The trees rejoice. The birds greet each new morning with praise. Yet we do not always join creation's song. We forget that we are creatures, beloved and dependent upon God. We wound one another. We misuse the gifts entrusted to us. We turn from the Creator's love. Still, God calls us—not away in shame, but toward abundant mercy. Let us tell the truth before God and one another.

CONFESSION

P: Creator God,

C: We confess that we have forgotten who we are.

P: You made us from the dust of the earth and breathed into us the breath of life.

C: Yet we have lived as though everything belongs to us instead of remembering that everything belongs to you.

P: You have surrounded us with beauty, wonder, and abundance.

C: Too often we hurry past your gifts, take them for granted, or use them without gratitude.

P: You have called us to love our neighbors, and to care for your good creation.

C: Forgive us when our choices bring harm, when we value convenience over compassion, consumption over contentment, or fear over faithful stewardship.

P: When the world is broken, when creation groans, when hearts are weary—

Teach us again to listen, to wonder, to love, and to live as your beloved people.

C: Renew us by your Holy Spirit, that our lives may join the song of all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FORGIVENESS

P: Listen! Even now, creation proclaims God's mercy. Morning follows night. Spring follows winter. Life rises from the earth. In Jesus Christ, God has entered this world in love, borne its sorrow, healed its brokenness, and opened the way to new life. Therefore, as a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Good Creation

Carol Meier
Hans Peterson

1 God who made the day and night, the shim - mer - ing stars and the
2 God who made the moun - tains high, the riv - ers and val - leys, the
3 God who makes the birds who soar, the fish in the o - ceans, the

sun's de - light; God who made the land and sea;
paint - ed sky; God who makes each bloom - ing spring;
li - on's roar; ev - 'ry crea - ture great and small:

Refrain
your love cre - at - ed me!
your love is why we sing! We are your good, good cre - a -
your love has made us all!

- tion, each *rain - bow, each *bull - frog, each face. We are your

good, good cre - a - tion, re - flect - ing your good - ness and grace.

**other parts of creation (eg. "each pine tree, each tiger, each face") may be substituted*

GREETING

P: 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

P: Let us pray,

All: Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sit

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON and Blessing of the Quilts

P: God, we give you thanks for those who have generously shared their resources in order to make these quilts/kits possible. Move us by their example to live generous lives.

All: Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors.

P: Thank you, God, for the hands that have made and assembled these quilts/kits. May each compassionate touch be known to those who receive them as an expression of your love.

All: Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors.

P: God, we lift before you the staff and partners of LWR who will distribute these quilts/kits around the world. Give them strength and encouragement to do this important work and guide them as they reach our neighbors who are the farthest away.

All: Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors.

P: Finally, God, we pray for our neighbors around the world who will receive these quilts/kits – neighbors we have never met, neighbors who are far away, neighbors who, like us, long for your grace and mercy. May these quilts/kits wrap our neighbors in love and fill them with the hope and peace that is only found in you.

All: Amen.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING Isaiah 5:1-7

I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.
What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

And now I will tell you
 what I will do to my vineyard.
 I will remove its hedge,
 and it shall be devoured;
 I will break down its wall,
 and it shall be trampled down.
 I will make it a wasteland;
 it shall not be pruned or hoed,
 and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;
 I will also command the clouds
 that they rain no rain upon it.
 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
 is the house of Israel,
 and the people of Judah
 are his cherished garden;
 he expected justice
 but saw bloodshed;
 righteousness
 but heard a cry!

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM **Psalm 80:7-15**

Reader: Restore us, O God of hosts;
 let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

**High: You have brought a vine out of Egypt;
 you cast out the nations and planted it.**

*Low: You cleared the ground for it;
 it took root and filled the land.*

**High: The mountains were covered by its shadow
 and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**

*Low: You stretched out its tendrils to the sea
 and its branches to the river.*

R: Why have you broken down its wall,
 so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?

**ALL: The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it,
 and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.**

R: Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
 behold and tend this vine; preserve what your right hand has planted.

SECOND READING **Philippians 3:4b-14**

[Paul writes:] If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

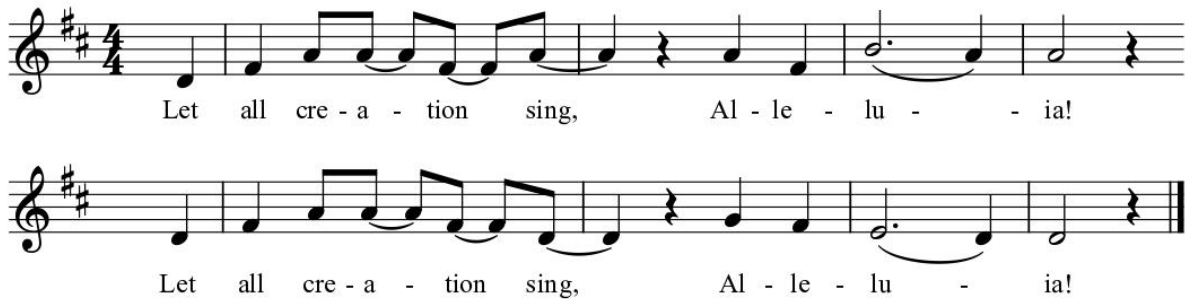
Stand

GOSPEL ACCLIMATION

Sung first by Choir, then by All

Let All Creation Sing
Gospel Acclamation

Hans Peterson
Carol Meier



GOSPEL READING Matthew 21:33-46

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 21st chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

“Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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 INTERCESSION



*After "Generous God" worshipers respond "***pour out your love.***"
Repeat "***Hope of all creation***" 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."*

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.

Offering Anthem: The Stranger's Guise, A Celtic Rune set by Karen Marrolli - Choir, Violin and Piano

"We saw a stranger yesterday. We put food in the eating place, drink in the drinking place,
music in the listening place. And with the sacred name of the Triune God,
he blessed us and our house, and our cattle, and our dear ones.

As the lark says in her song: 'Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.'
We saw a stranger yesterday. Often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise."

Stand

OFFERING RESPONSE

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW 184

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

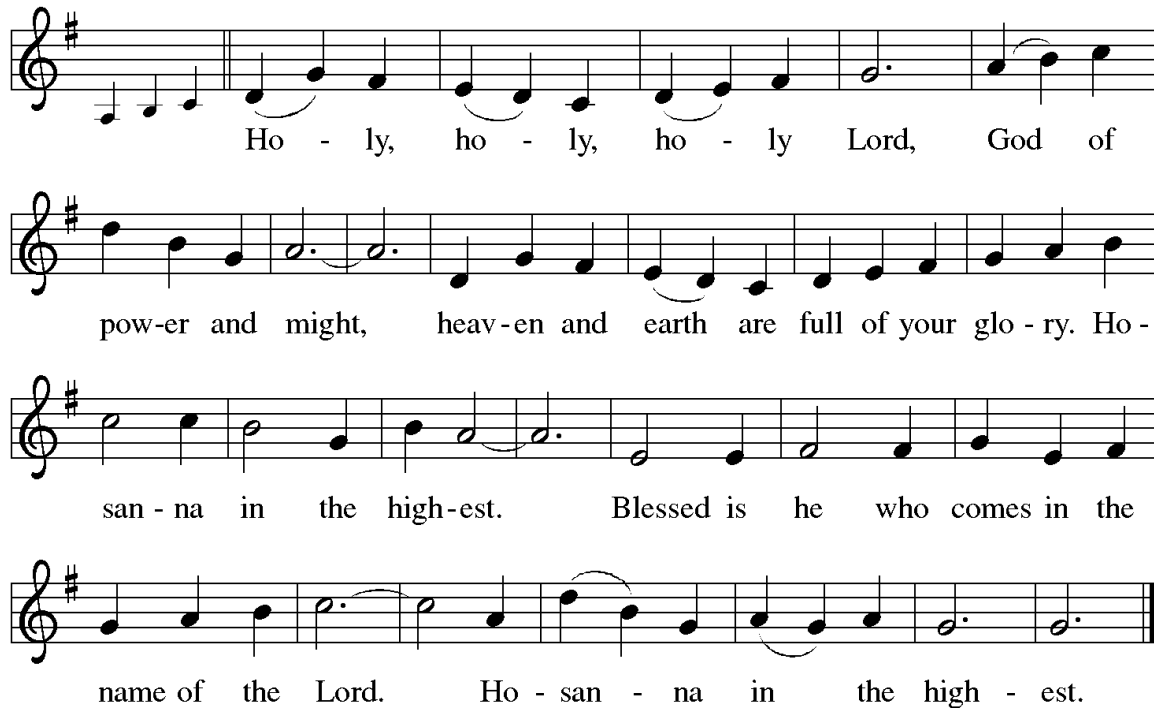
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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:



P: 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

P: 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.

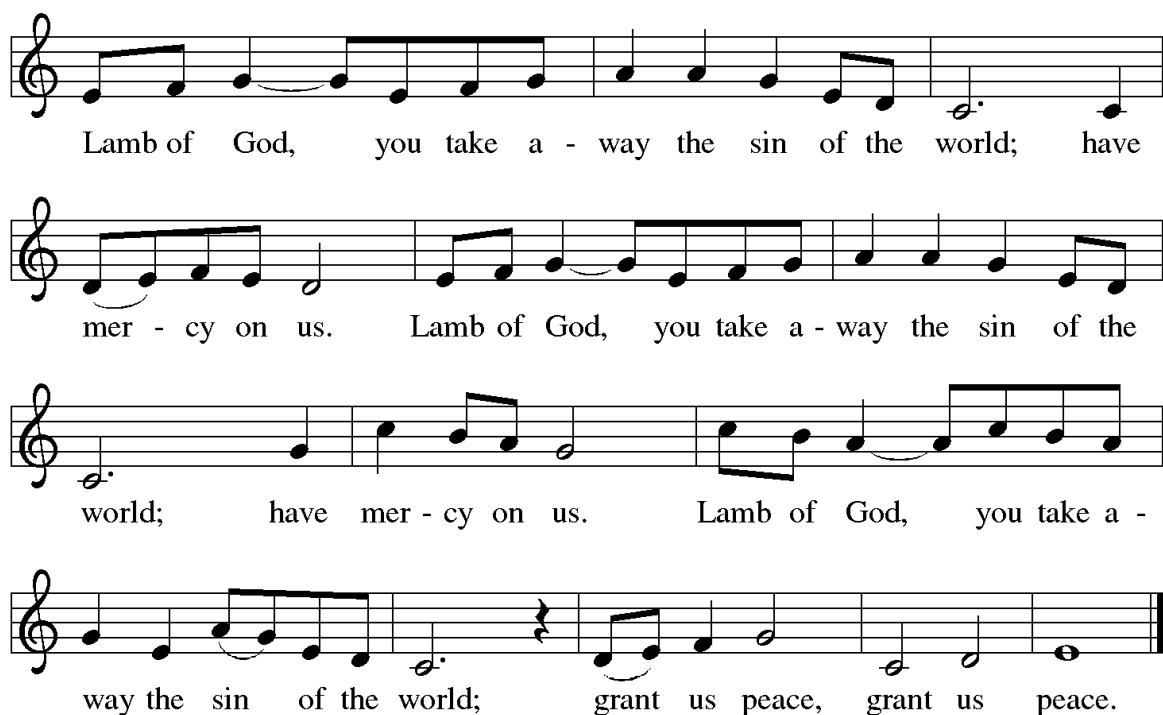
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE MEAL

P: 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.

HOLY COMMUNION - The Lord's Supper

- All are welcome at Christ's table regardless of age or membership status. Ushers will direct you to come forward. Those who prefer not to commune are welcome to stay seated or come forward for a blessing. If you would like a blessing, please cross your arms over your chest or make a similar sign to indicate your choice.
- The bread we serve is gluten, nut, and dairy free in hopes that our entire community will be able to share the same bread. The recipe does contain eggs and honey. Gluten-free wafers and the pre-packaged sets of elements containing a wheat wafer and grape juice are available on the stands at the head of the aisle.
- Once you receive the bread, you may move to the next server to select your own cup. The red is wine, the lighter color is grape juice. You may place your empty cup in the baskets on the stands as you return to your seat.
- If it would be helpful to have communion brought to you, please let an usher know and we will make sure that happens.
- Finally, if you desire prayers for healing for yourself, a loved one, or some part of our hurting world, a prayer leader will be available at the baptismal font during the communion distribution to pray with you.



COMMUNION HYMNS:

ELW 493 Taste and See
Refrain sung by ALL, verses sung by Cantors

ELW 595 Jesus Loves Me!

TABLE BLESSING

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

Asst.: God of plenty, you have nourished our bodies with the fruits of the earth, our minds with the assurance that there is enough, and our spirits with the promise of Christ's true presence. Send us from this table to welcome as we have been welcomed, to feed as we have been fed and to forgive as we have been forgiven, for the sake of the world you love.

All: Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

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

Pastor: God of Love, 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 briefly share announcements not listed in the weekly Peace Proclamations – Blessings (anniversaries, birthdays, births or new jobs), Prayer Concerns, or Answered Prayers. So that all present on person and live-streaming can see and hear you, please come up the ramp to the chancel then go to the pulpit to give your announcement.

INSTALLATION and Welcome of New Staff Members

Stand

FINAL BLESSING

*As Pastor concludes each petition with "looked at them and said,"
the Congregation responds "You are GOOD!"*

P: God the Creator bless you and keep you, today and every day in love, peace, and joy,

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Thine the Amen

ELW 826

DISMISSAL

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

All: Thanks be to God.

MUSIC FOR THE CLOSE OF WORSHIP

Praise to the Lord arr. Calvin Hampton

This Week's Servers

October 4, 2026

Worship Asst: Stephenie Logan
Reader: Gary Bischof
Ushers: Ron and Erin Leversee
Technology: Mike Whately, Paul Swodzinski,
Mark Clyne
Prayer Station:
Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson
Communion Asst.: Sandy Foster, Pam Timm,
Cam Hart, Annika Eklov
Altar Guild: Gail MacNellis
Fellowship Host:
Fellowship Treats:
Church Lockup: Dennis Stalker

Next Week's Servers

October 11, 2026

Worship Asst:
Reader: Sandy Foster
Ushers: Greg Guthrie
Technology: Mike Whately, Mark Clyne,
Paul Swodzinski
Prayer Station:
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov
Communion Asst.: Sandy Mertz, Mackenzie Hart,
Cam Hart
Altar Guild: Sandy Bennett
Fellowship Host:
Fellowship Treats:
Church Lockup: Sandy Bennett

Living Voice of Creation: A Liturgy for the Feast of Creation in Christ, Provided by Nourishing Vocation with Children through the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community St. Olaf College Northfield, MN
Music by Carol Meier and Hans Peterson ©2026 Carol Meier Music & Dakota Road Music

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pop_listen2



Hearing Aid Compatible Assistive Listening System

1. Use the left QR code to connect to the *pop_listen2* Wi-Fi network.
 2. Use the right QR code to download the *ListenWIFI* app, either from the Apple Store or the Google Play Store.
 3. Open the *ListenWIFI* app and select "POP Service."
 4. You should now be receiving audio in your hearing aids.
- If you need assistance, see an usher.

ListenWIFI app



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Staff Church phone: 269-343-3453

Pastor: Rachel Laughlin ext 11
Music Director: Janet Hill ext 16
Engagement Coordinator: Em Witteveen ext 12
Admin. Asst.: Ashley Wineland ext 10
Tech Manager: Mike Whately ext 13
Accountant: Marilyn Storch ext 14
Nursery: Melissa Copeland
& Megan Zimmerman ext 17
Custodian: Charles Boyd ext 20
Care Team Email: prayer@popportage.org

Use the QR code below to donate online to Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and its ministries. See the Peace Proclamations announcement page for more details.

