

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 11, 2026 10:30 a.m.



*Everything is ready;
come to the
wedding banquet*

MATTHEW 22:4

*“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

At the Lamb's High Feast
arr. Ernst Pepping

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.

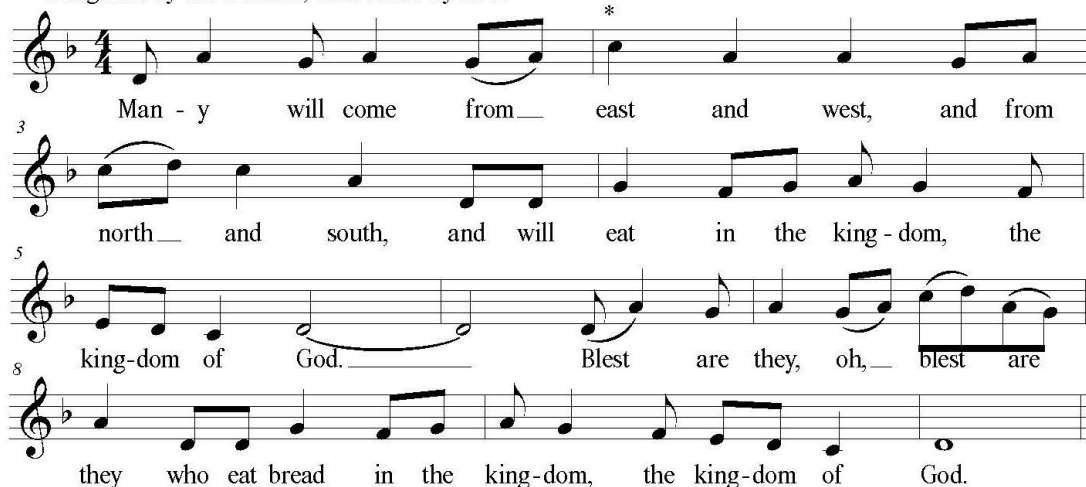
FORGIVENESS

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.

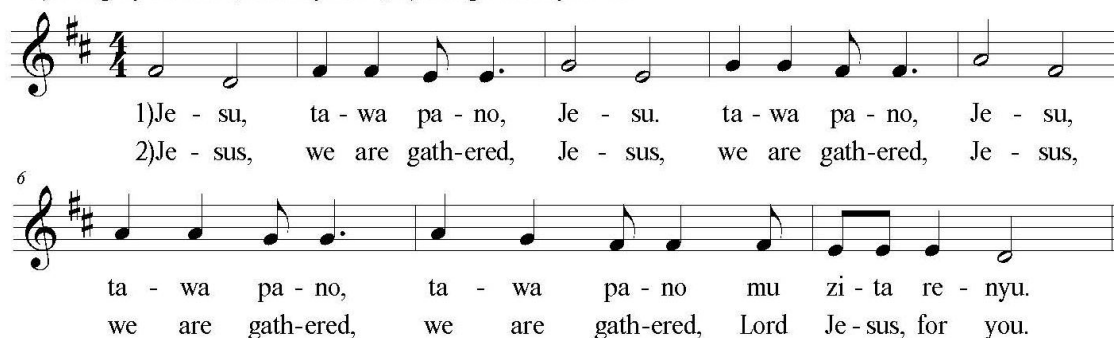
GATHERING SONGS

Sung first by the Cantors, then twice by ALL



Man - y will come from east and west, and from
north and south, and will eat in the king - dom, the
king-dom of God. Blest are they, oh, blest are
they who eat bread in the king-dom, the king-dom of God.

1) Sung by Cantors, then by ALL; 2) Sung once by ALL



1) Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, Je - su. ta - wa pa - no, Je - su,
2) Je - sus, we are gath-ered, Je - sus, we are gath-ered, Je - sus,
ta - wa pa - no, ta - wa pa - no mu zi - ta re - nyu.
we are gath-ered, we are gath-ered, Lord Je - sus, for you.

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: **Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Sit

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

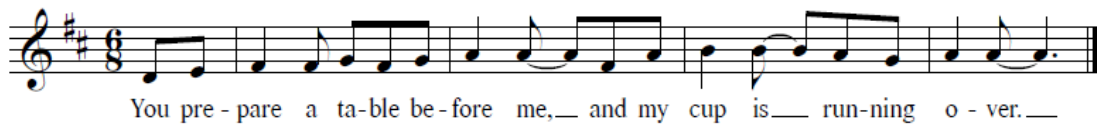
FIRST READING Isaiah 25:1-9

O Lord, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt.
Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**All: Refrain**

R: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

All: Refrain

R: You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

All: Refrain

R: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

All: Refrain

SECOND READING Philippians 4:1-9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

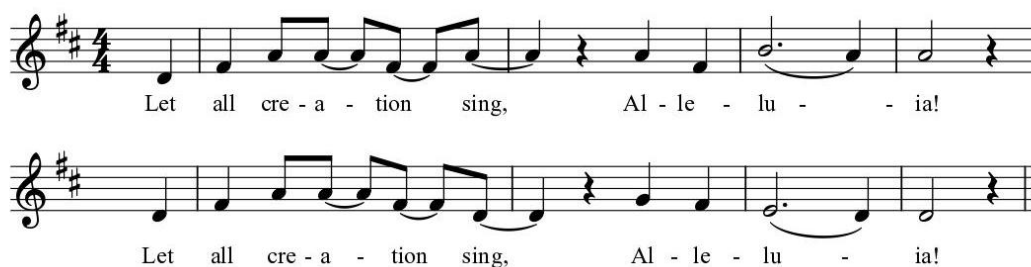
Stand

GOSPEL ACCLIMATION

Sung first by Choir, then by All

Let All Creation Sing
Gospel Acclamation

Hans Peterson
Carol Meier



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 22nd chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON Pastor Rachel Laughlin

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Asst: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these people, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome as new members into the life and ministry of the congregation.

Steven and Jennie Stange

Jamie Banich and Landry, Savannah-Rose, and Adeylnn-Rose

Asst: We ask each and all of these persons to profess their faith and renew the vows that were made at their baptism.

Pastor: Let us pray...We ask this in the name of Christ. **Amen**

Pastor: I ask you to profess your faith in Jesus Christ, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Candidate: I renounce them.

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Candidate: I renounce them.

Pastor: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Candidate: I renounce them.

Pastor: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: 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.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Pastor: You have made public profession of your faith...to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Candidate: I do, and I ask God to help me and guide me.

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support these siblings and pray for them in their life with Christ?

All: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Pastor: Let us pray...the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Asst: Let us rejoice with these new siblings in Christ.

All: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world. 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."*

Sit

TEMPLE TALK

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.

Stand

OFFERING RESPONSE

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

ELW 531

LITURGICAL HAND WASHING

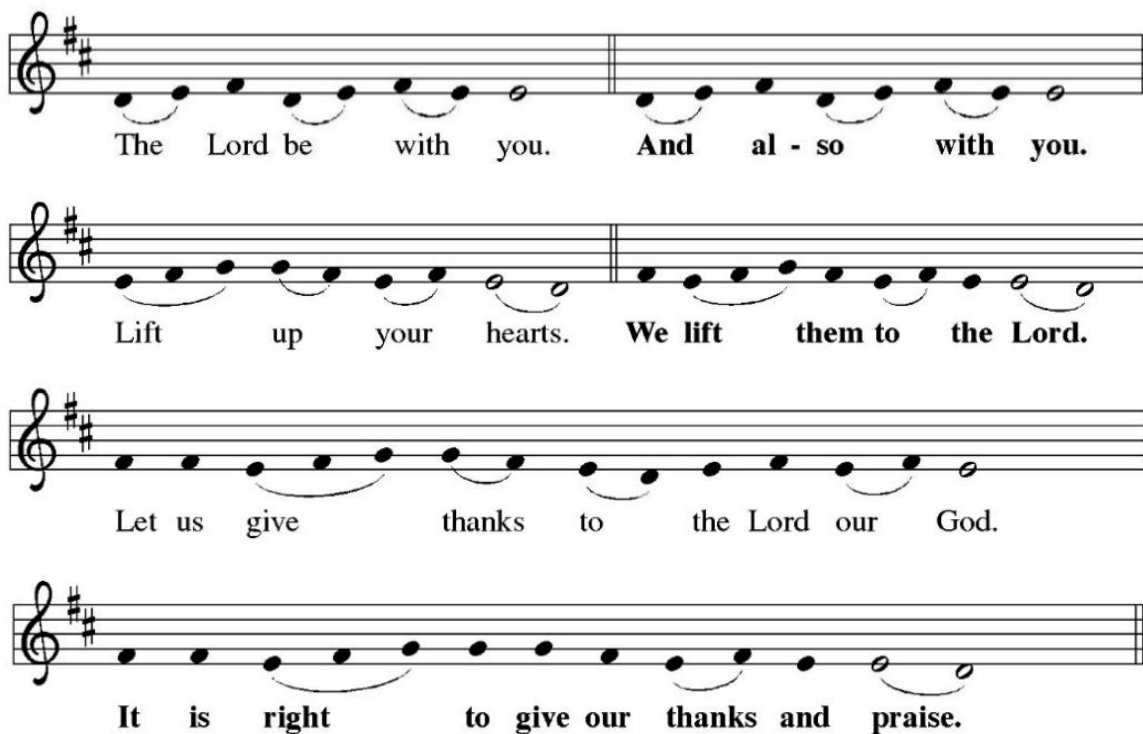
I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds. Psalm 26:6-7

OFFERING PRAYER

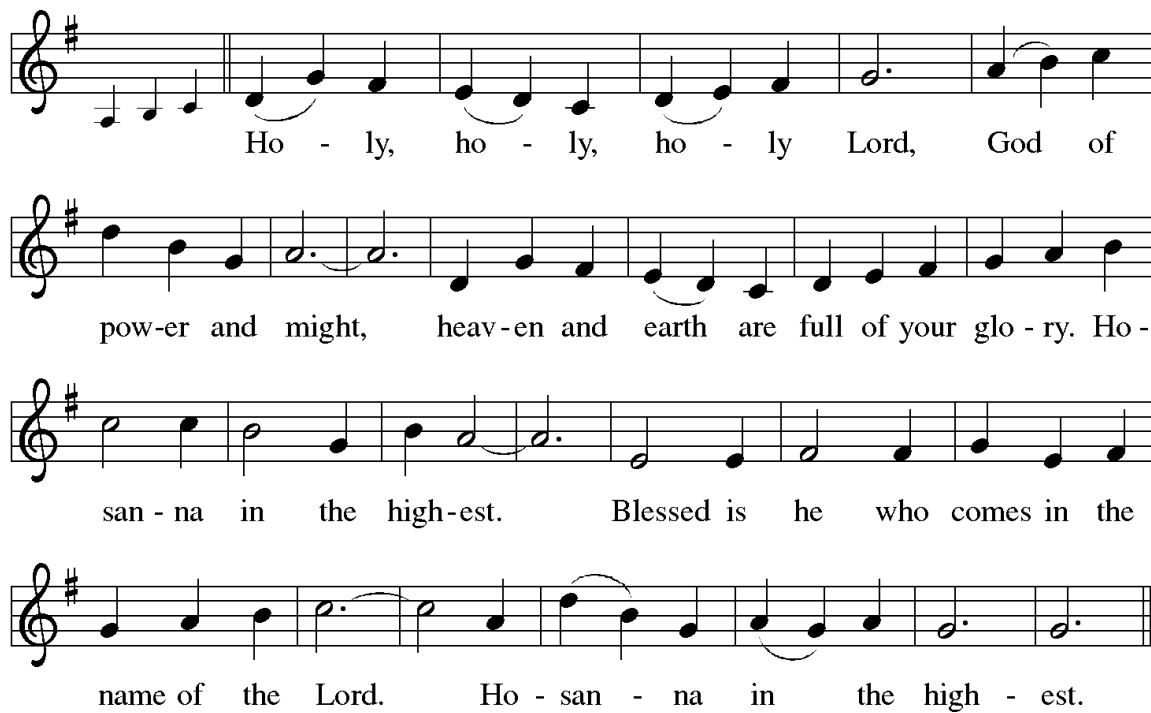
Asst: Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING - Grace Before the Meal



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

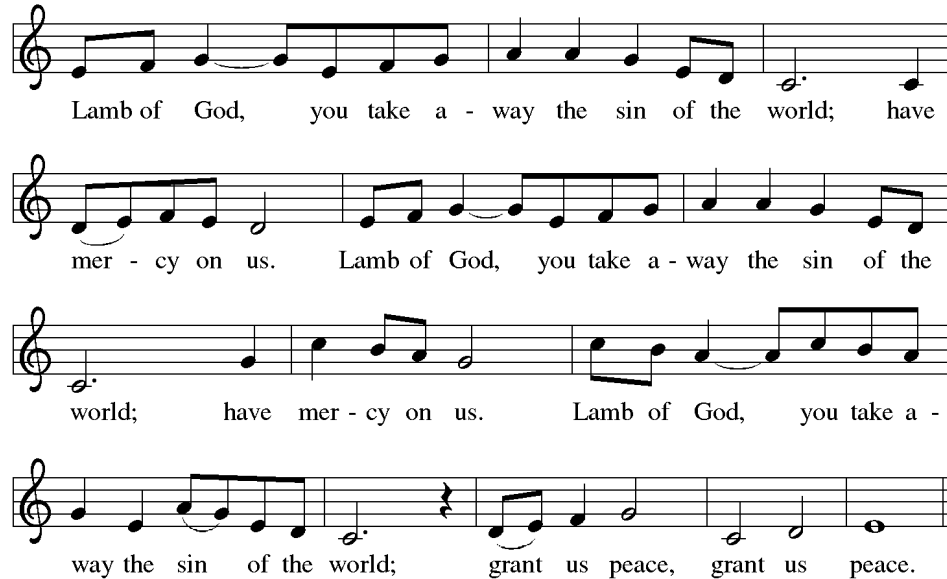
P: If you desire to receive what God offers, come to this Table. Come with your faith and your doubt. Come with your questions and your hopes. Come with your grief and your love. Come taste the Lord's goodness. There is room for you here because this is Christ's table. You are welcome.

Sit

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:

God Welcomes All

Sing "Do,do,do" then Words, then "Do,do,do"

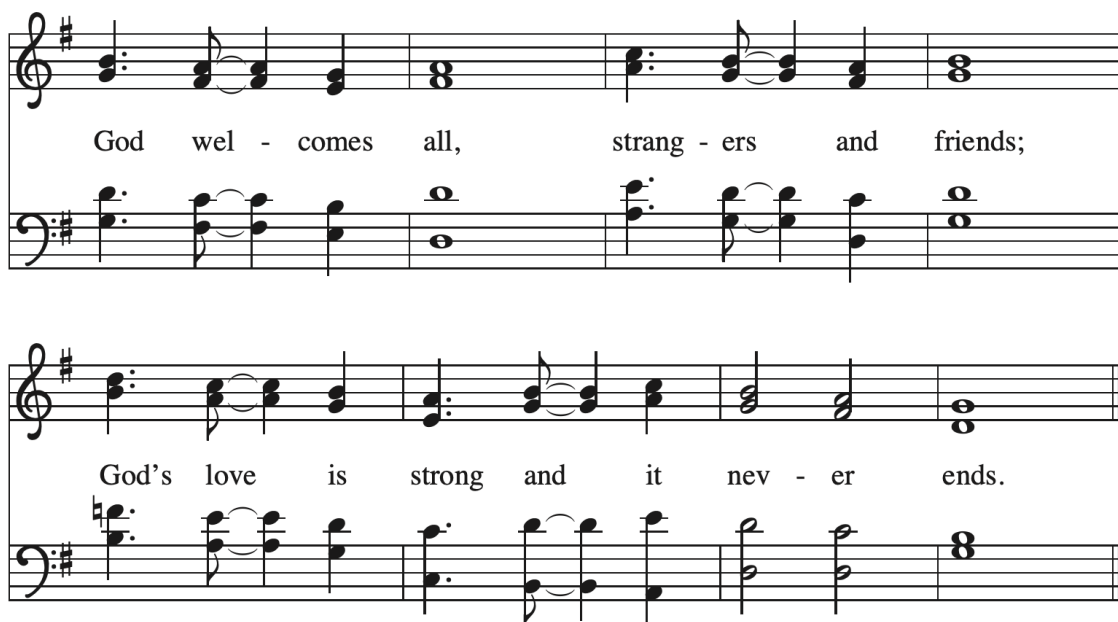


TABLE BLESSING

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.

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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ELW 858

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, the Almighty arr. J. G. Walther

This Week's Servers

October 11, 2026

Worship Asst:

Reader: Sandy Foster

Ushers: Greg Guthrie, Lee Banitt, Peter Eldridge

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: Gail McNellis

Fellowship Treats: Alex Baas-Peterson

Church Lockup: Judson Stemaly

Next Week's Servers

October 18, 2026

Worship Asst:

Reader: Beth Whately

Ushers: Sandy Bennett,

Technology: Mike Whately

Prayer Station: Laurie Brown

Sacristy Asst.: Marilyn Storch,

Communion Asst.: Mackenzie Hart
Cam Hart, Annika Eklov

Altar Guild: Linda Timm

Fellowship Host: Ida Stemaly

Fellowship Treats: Ida Stemaly

Church Lockup: Laurie Brown

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; *Many Will Come* Text and music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress; *God Welcomes All* Words, transcription and arrangement © 2008 WGRG c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc Permission under One License Annual License A-710485; *ELW Holy Communion Setting 1 and hymns*: Permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual License SAS006200. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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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.

