

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 25, 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.poppportage.org.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

MUSIC FOR THE BEGINNING OF WORSHIP

WELCOME

SERVICE OF BAPTISM

PRESENTATION *Candidates for baptism, sponsors, and parents gather with the ministers at the font.
Congregation stands and faces the Font*

Pastor: God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: We present Matthew Brian Walker for baptism.

Pastor: Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God,
do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

Response: We do.

P: As you bring Matthew to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with him among God's faithful people, bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer, so that he may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace.
Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

R: We do.

P: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Matthew in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit,
and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

R: We do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Matthew and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

All: We do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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

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

I renounce them.

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

I renounce them.

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

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

**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.**

Do you believe in God 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.**

HOLY BAPTISM of Matthew Brian Walker

Asst: Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Welcome Song *Worshipers repeat the words of the song leader.*

All

Come, let us worship God...
Come, let us worship God...
Welcome everyone...
To the love of God...

Hope for the children...
Hope for the children...
Welcome Matthew...
To the love of God...

HYMN OF PRAISE

Carol Meier
Hans Peterson

5

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: **Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Sit

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 46

Though the Earth Shall Change

ACS 1035

Sung by All

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with line numbers 5, 9, and 13 indicating the start of new lines of music. The final line ends with a double bar line.

5 Though the earth shall change, though the moun-tains trem-ble,
9 though the wa - ters rage, you, God are here.____
13 Though the na - tions war, though the peo - ples bat - tle,
13 though the em - pire fal - ters, we will not fear.____

Reader: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea; though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

Refrain by All

Reader: There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day. The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Refrain by All

Reader: Come now, regard the works of the Lord, what desolations God has brought upon the earth; behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire. "Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth." The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Refrain by All

SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

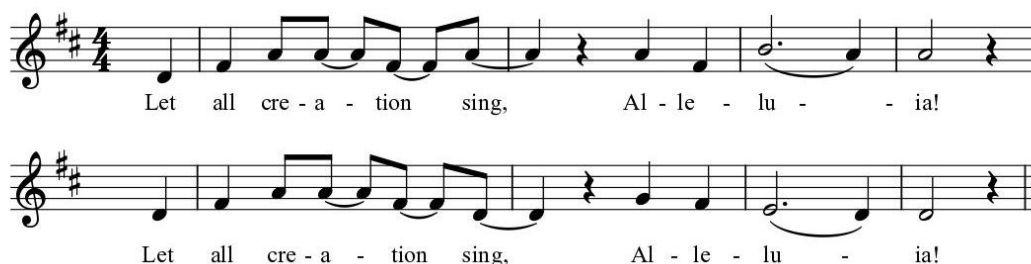
Stand

GOSPEL ACCLIMATION

Sung first by Choir, then by All

Let All Creation Sing Gospel Acclamation

Hans Peterson
Carol Meier



GOSPEL READING John 8:31-36

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 8th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON Pastor Rachel Laughlin

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY

In Christ Alone

1) In Christ a - lone my heart is found. He is my
2) In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
3) There in the ground His bod - y lay. Light of the
4) No guilt in life, no fear in death; this is the
light, my strength, my song. This cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
God in help - less babe. This gift of love and right - eous -
world, by dark - ness slain. Then burst - ing forth in glor - ious
pow'r of Christ in me. From life's first cry to fi - nal
ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm. What heights of
ness, scorned by the ones He came to save, 'til on that
day, up from the grave He rose a - gain. And as He
death, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No pow'r of
love, what depth of peace when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
cross, as Je - sus died, the plan of God was sat - is -
stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
hell, no scheme or plan can ev - er pluck me from His
cease. My Com - fort - er, my All in
fied, for ev - ery sin on Him was
me, for I am His and He is
hand. 'Til He re - turns or calls me
All. Here in the love of Christ I stand.
laid. Here in the death of Christ I live.
mine, bought by the pre - cious blood of Christ.
home, here in the pow'r of Christ I stand.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After “Generous God” worshipers respond “pour out your love.”

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:

“Order My Steps” - Glenn Burleigh

*Order my steps in your Word, dear Lord,
Lead me, guide me, every day.
Send your anointing, Father, I pray.
Order my steps in your Word.*

*Humbly I ask Thee, teach me your will,
while You are working, help me be still.
Tho’ Satan is busy, God is real!
Order my steps in your Word.*

*I want to walk worthy – walk worthy Lord, my calling to fulfill.
Please order my steps, Lord – order my steps
and I’ll do your blessed will!
The world is changing, but You are still the same.
If You order my steps, I’ll praise your name.*

*Order my steps in your Word. Order my tongue in your Word,
guide my feet in your Word, wash my heart in your Word.
Show me how to walk in your Word. Show me how to talk in your Word.
When I need a brand new song to sing,
show me how to let your praises ring in your Word.
Please order my steps in your Word.*

OFFERING RESPONSE

Born, Reborn

ACS 956

Refrain- ALL 1) High voices lead, low voices echo

2) Low voices lead, high voices echo

Refrain

Born, re - born! Born, re - born! Formed, re - formed!

Souls with glad - ness now a - dorned! Born, re - born! Born, re - born!

Formed, re - formed! Praise our God for-ev - er - more!

1	Drown	us.	Drown	us.	Raise	us.	Raise	us.
2	Name	us.	Name	us.	Heal	us.	Heal	us.

Refrain

Mark us. Mark us. Claim us! Claim us!

Wash us. Wash us. Seal us! Seal us!

Stand

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*

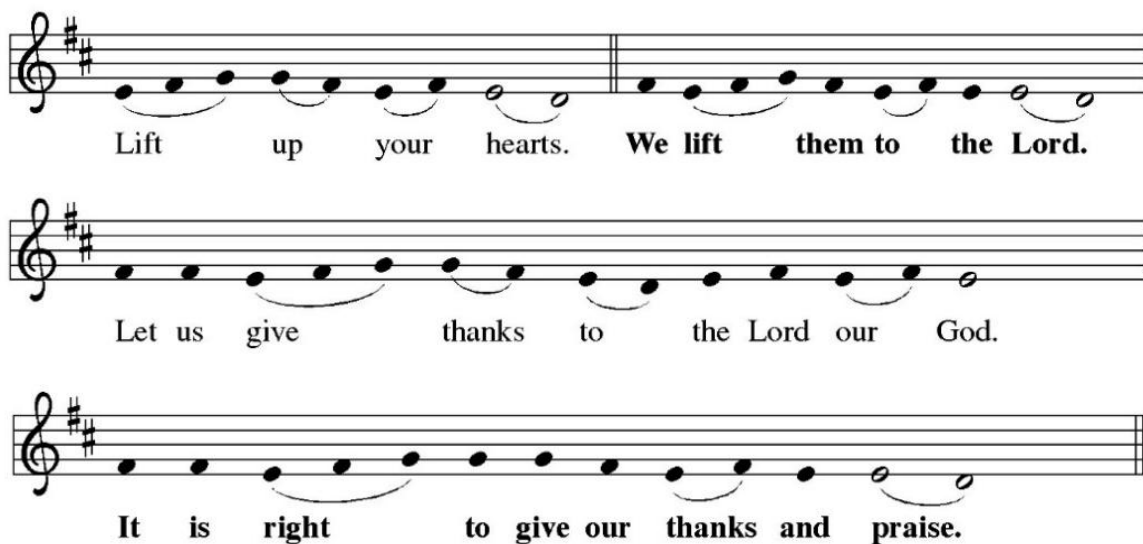
OFFERING PRAYER

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.

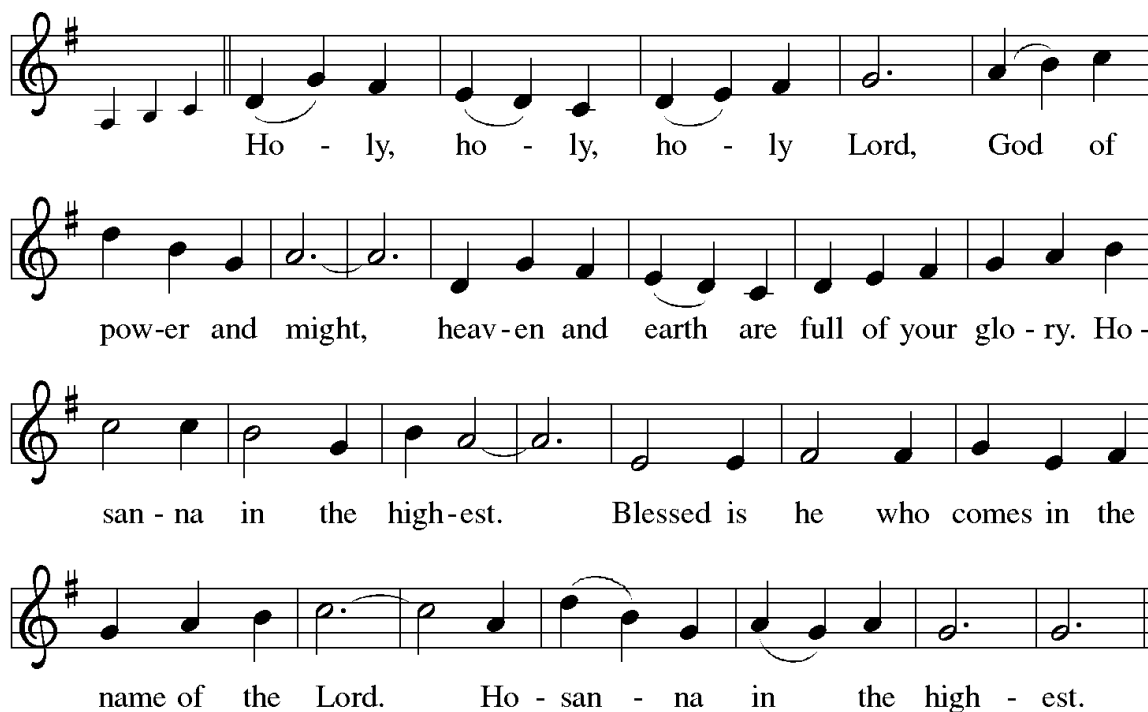
All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING - Grace Before the Meal

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



P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: In the night in which he was betrayed ...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.

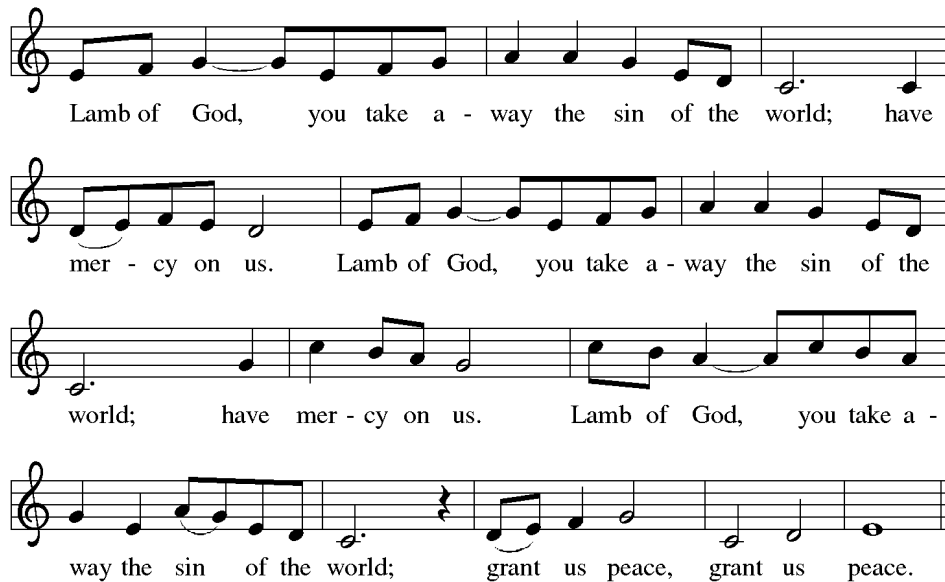
INVITATION TO THE MEAL

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

Now the Silence	ELW 460
Here is Bread	ELW 483
Shine, Jesus, Shine	ELW 671

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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

ELW 504

3) Congregation: Keep Singing! The Choir will sing in a round with you.

DISMISSAL

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

All: Thanks be to God.

MUSIC FOR THE CLOSE OF WORSHIP

A Mighty Fortress is Our God arr. Johann Pachelbel

This Week's Servers

October 25, 2026

Worship Asst: Noel Sederstrom
Reader: Karen Adams
Ushers: Greg Guthrie
Technology: Mike Whately, Mark Clyne
Prayer Station: Lynne Wathen
Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson
Communion Asst.: Sandy Foster
Altar Guild: Diane Hellman
Fellowship Host: Claudia Lee
Fellowship Treats: Melissa Copeland, Claudia Lee
Church Lockup: Sandy Bennett

Next Week's Servers

November 1, 2026

Worship Asst: Jolaine Snyder
Reader: Sharey Biles
Ushers: Karl Klemm
Technology: Mike Whately, Paul Guthrie
Prayer Station:
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov
Communion Asst.: Bette Stemaly, Annika Eklov,
Cam Hart, Pam Timm
Altar Guild: Gail MacNellis
Fellowship Host: Stewardship Committee
Fellowship Treats: Stewardship Committee
Jolaine Snyder, Yvonne Gatz
Church Lockup: Don Eklov

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; *Though the Earth Shall Change*, Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. Permission under One License Annual License A-710485; *In Christ Alone*, Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend, 2001 Thankyou Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Permission under CCLI Annual License #11064917; *Born, Reborn*, by Justin Rimbo, Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress, Permission under One License Annual License A-710485; *ELW Holy Communion Setting 1 and hymns*: Permission under Augsburg Fortress Annual License SAS006200.
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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.



When announcements are memorable, everyone benefits! People are better able to remember the important information you are sharing when they aren't overwhelmed with too much of it at once. Please use these templates as a guide for making an effective and engaging announcement during worship.

To get your information included in the Peace Proclamations, bulletin, announcement slides, or newsletter please e-mail Ashley at secretary@popportage.org by Wednesdays for weekly publications and by the third Thursday of the month for the monthly newsletter.

POP Announcement-Making Tips

Memorable announcements are engaging, to the point, and apply to most of the people present. Please include the following:

Your Name: _____

Your role or group: _____

Event/News/Update: _____

Date and time of event: _____

What you want people to do:

___ Sign up ___ Attend/Participate ___ Read ___ Look online ___

Other: _____

Where to find more information:

___ Website ___ Peace Procs/Bulletin insert ___ Newsletter

___ Other: _____

___ By contacting a person: _____

___ e-mail them ___ call them ___ talk after worship

Please do not share personal contact information on the livestream.

POP God Moment/Life Event Sharing Tips

Sharing glimpses of God at work in our lives brings our community joy and helps us connect faith to our daily lives. As you prepare to share, take a moment to organize your thoughts so your story will be clear and impactful. Thank you for your willingness to share your story!

Your Name: _____

Life Event: _____

___ Requesting prayers ___ Saying thank you ___ Celebrating a joy ___

Update after a prayer request

___ Announce a birthday (please let the musician know in advance)