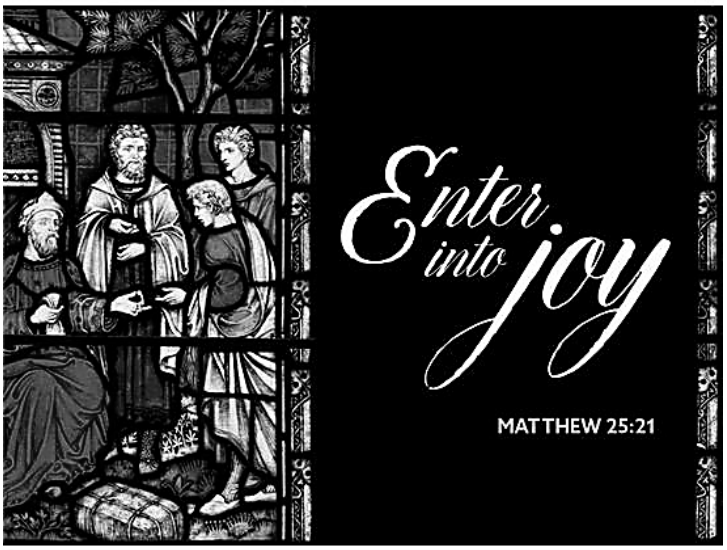
25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 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 Prayground 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 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us
arr. Mark Sedio

WELCOME

Stand
INVITATION TO CONFESSION

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, our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,
All: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
All: Amen.

GATHERING SONG Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us ELW 707

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: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sit
THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

WE HEAR THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

R: Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand!
The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm."
Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.
I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full,
a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

R: Word of God. Word of Life.
All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 90

Reader: Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God. You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
All: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night; you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass: in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
Reader For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
All: When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
Reader: The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.
Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?
All: So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

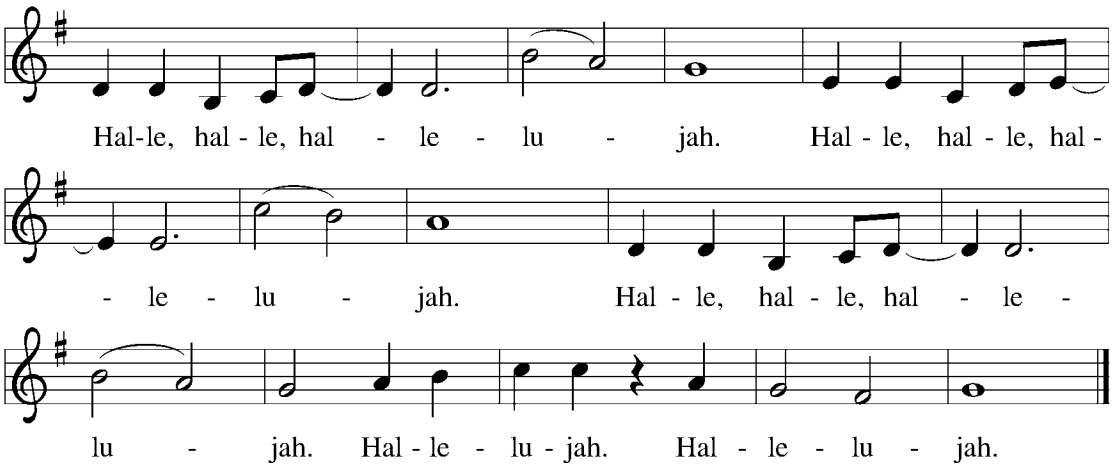
SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

R: Word of God. Word of Life.
All: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Sung twice*



GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:14-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter.
All: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON Pastor Rachel Laughlin

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 1072

All verses: Choir begins; ALL join in at "All creation waits"

Abba, Abba, Hear Us



Text: Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951
Music: ARIRANG, Korean traditional
Text © 1996, 2001 Andrew Donaldson, admin. Augsburg Fortress

APOSTLES' CREED

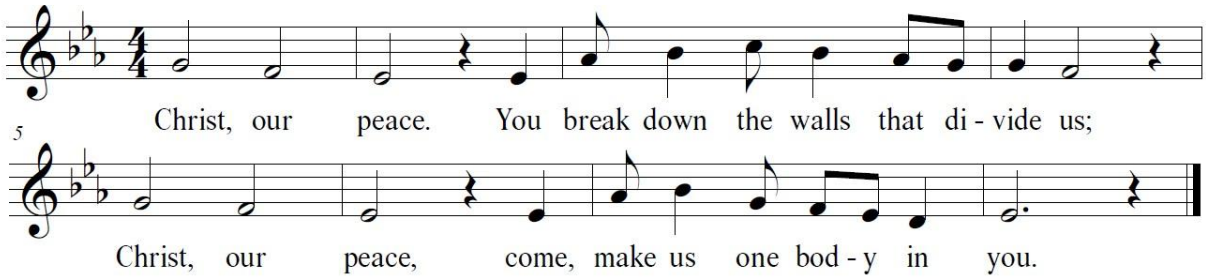
Asst: With the whole church, we confess our faith:

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 "**Christ, Our Peace**" after 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.

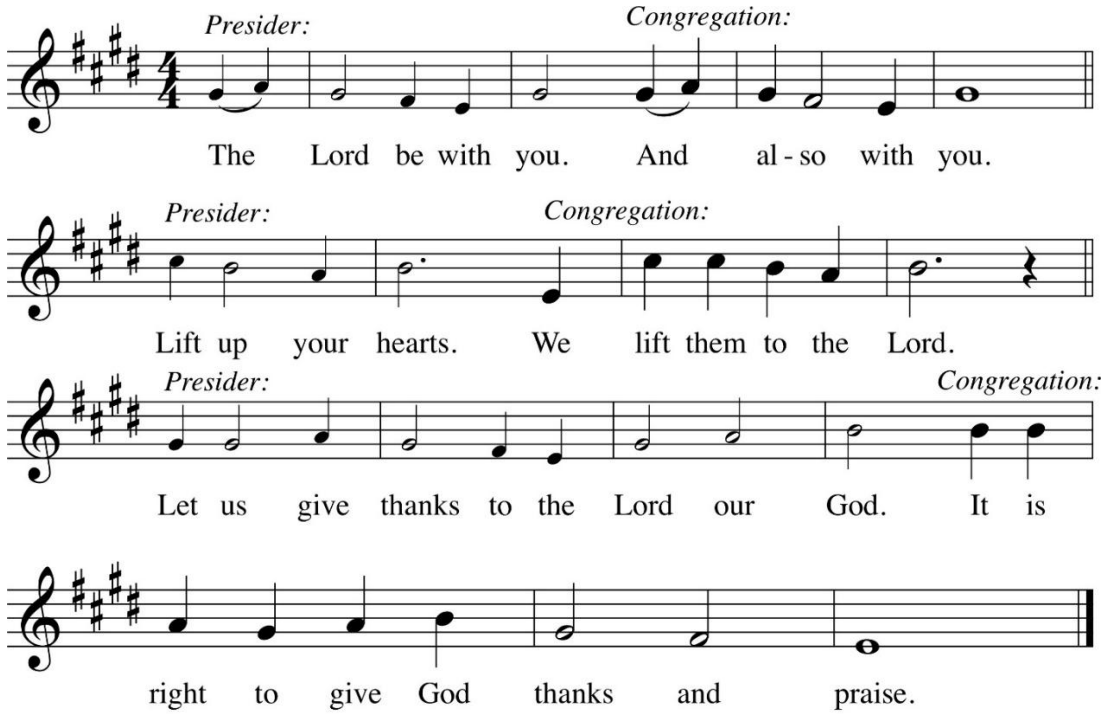
OFFERING RESPONSE This Little Light of Mine ELW 677
Stand for last verse

Stand
LITURGICAL HAND WASHING

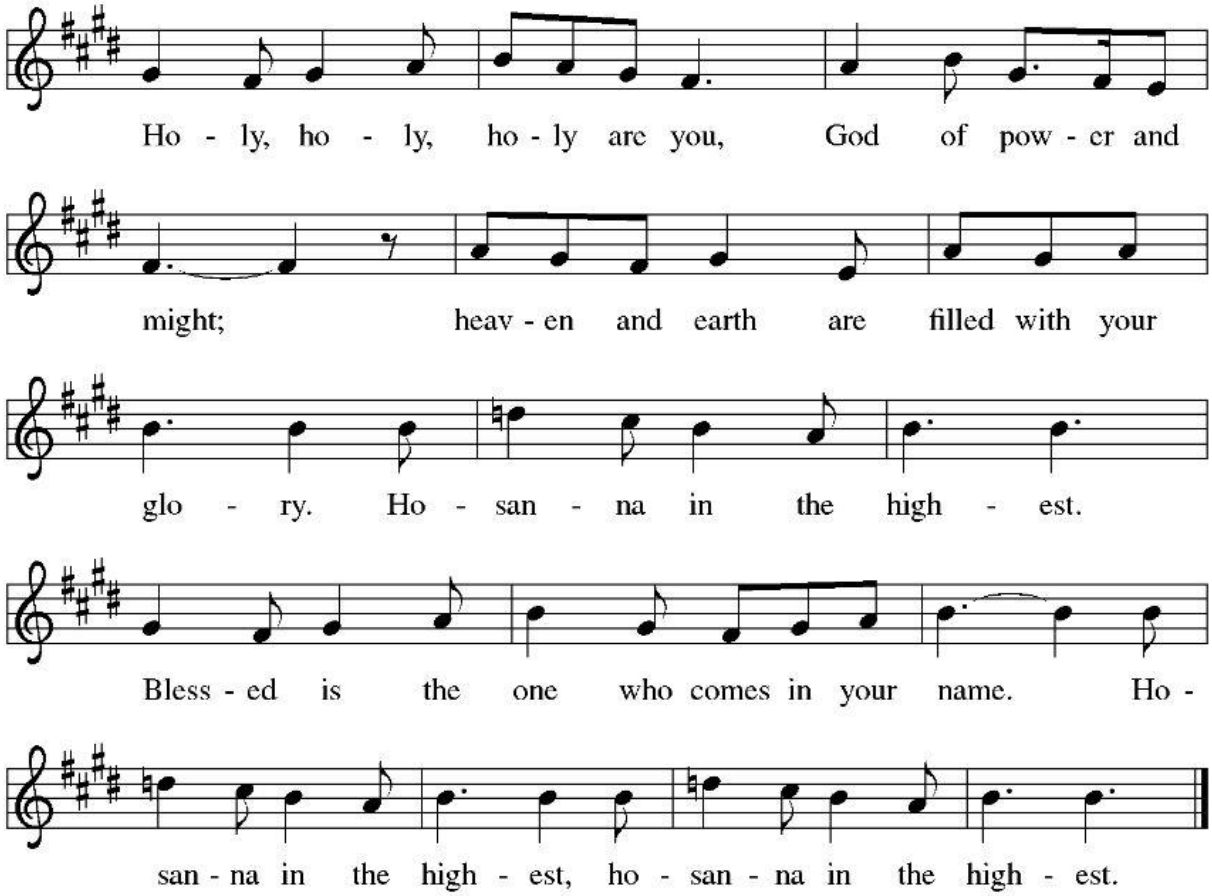
I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord,
singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds. Psalm 26:6-7

OFFERING PRAYER

Asst: Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
All: Amen.



P: It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow his way of humble service and love. And so with the church on earth, all creation and the host of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P: Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

C: We praise you, O God.

P: Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C: We bless you, O God.

P: We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C: We thank you, O God.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed …Do this for the remembrance of me. Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

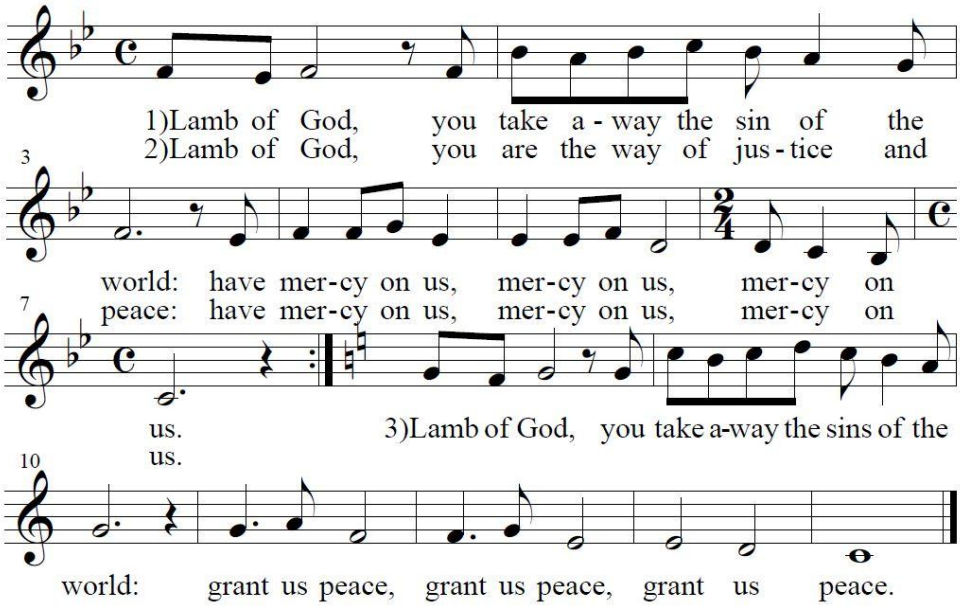
All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory 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 or pre-packaged sets of elements containing a wheat wafer and grape juice are available on the stands at the head of the aisle.
- After receiving the bread, you may move to the next server to select your own cup. The wine is red, the lighter color is grape juice. 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.
- A **prayer station** is available at the baptismal font during the communion distribution. If your heart feels heavy, if your soul feels dry, if you are bursting with joy or desire an extra measure of peace, a prayer leader will be there to pray with you.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Christ, Be Our Light	ELW 715
Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ	ELW 674

TABLE BLESSING

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

Asst.: Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.

All: Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

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

Pastor: O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger, bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of the table with our siblings who are sick/homebound/imprisoned. May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community, and by the Bread of Life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worshipers are invited to briefly share announcements not listed in the weekly Peace Proclamations – blessings (such as anniversaries, birthdays, births or new jobs), prayer concerns, or moments when you've encountered God recently. So that all present in 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

P: The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you ☩ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever.

All: Amen.

SENDING HYMN Lord of Light ELW 688
Stanzas 1 and 4 only

DISMISSAL

Asst: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

All: Thanks be to God.

MUSIC FOR THE CLOSE OF WORSHIP Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ arr. Mark Sedio

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This Week's Servers
November 15, 2026

Worship Asst: Claudia Lee
Readers: Karen Adams
Ushers: Lee Banitt
Technology: Mike Whately, Paul Guthrie, Mark Clyne
Prayer Station: Laurie Brown
Sacristy Asst.: Laila Poisson
Communion Asst.: Paula Kana'an, Camden Hart, Kathy Eklov
Altar Guild: Linda Timm
Fellowship Treats:
Fellowship Host:
Church Lockup: Sandy Mertz

Next Week's Servers
November 22, 2026

Worship Asst: Noel Sederstrom
Readers: Gary Bischof
Ushers: Lee Banitt, Greg Guthrie
Technology: Mike Whately
Prayer Station: Karen Adams
Sacristy Asst.: Kathy Eklov
Communion Asst.: MacKenzie Hart, Camden Hart, Annika Eklov
Altar Guild: Sandy Bennett
Fellowship Treats: Alex Baas-Peterson
Fellowship Host:
Church Lockup: Noel Sederstrom

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.

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.

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