

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Appleton, Wisconsin
September 3, 2023
9:00 a.m. Service**

MISSION STATEMENT

*Prince of Peace Lutheran Church is a family of Christians
Growing in Faith and Reaching out in Love*

POP VISION 2024

*We will be...an engaged and inclusive congregation of disciples,
transforming the lives in our community through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*


Welcome to **God's House** which is the spiritual home of all who come to worship today. Part of Prince of Peace Church's mission statement says that we are "a family of Christians." Because God has made us family, we gather together in this church home to receive the Lord's strength, comfort and peace. Christ, our brother, is here, and his presence will change us. As new people, we leave this spiritual home to go out and live our daily lives in the world as ambassadors for Christ. Go, but remember to come home. See you next Sunday!

We love kids in worship: young ones, old ones, squirmy ones, curious ones, crying ones, happy ones. Jesus loves them, too. In fact, one day when he was trying to explain to a bunch of adults who would enter the Kingdom of God, he plucked a child out of the crowd and said that if they wanted to enter his kingdom, they should be like this wide-eyed child! What an object lesson for us all and what hope, because we are all kids at heart, just trying to follow Jesus.

We know it is sometimes a challenge and, with our nursery closed for our youngest ones' safety during the pandemic, we have some ways to help you out. We have bags of activities on the wooden kiosk near the entrance by the bathrooms that children can grab before entering the sanctuary. We have a place for kids to play in our narthex, the **PRAYERGROUND**, which is stocked with toys and books and comfy chairs, and there are speakers projecting the service, so caregivers can keep track of what's going on in the service and can listen to and/or rejoin worship anytime. *The space located at the back of the sanctuary, called the **PLAYDECK**, with a rug and some quiet toys where a child might need to hang out for a few minutes with mom or dad nearby.*

You can find changing tables in the bathrooms near the narthex **PRAYERGROUND** for your convenience. And, finally, we have ushers and greeters who love kids, too, who were once kids themselves, and who want to help you have a great worship experience! We are glad you are here!

The Glass Cross on the Altar is unique. There are only 3 of these handmade crosses in the world. The other two are in congregations with whom we share our ministry. One is on the altar of Kopano Lutheran Church in Mogwase, South Africa and the other is at the Evangelische Stadtpfarrkirche Hermannstadt in Sibiu, Romania. These Lutheran churches are ministry partners with us with whom we have shared visits, resources, and mutual support. Each Sunday as we gather in worship under this common cross, we are reminded of our faith in our Savior, Jesus the Christ, whose Spirit unites peoples of different countries, races, cultures and histories under His benevolent love.

 **A hearing loop system** is installed in our sanctuary. Those with hearing aid devices may activate their T-Coil technology.

WORSHIP LEADERS & VOLUNTEERS

Preaching Minister	Pastor Jennifer DeNetz
Presiding Minister	Pastor Roger McQuistion
Assisting Minister	Kris Gurholt
Musicians	Sondra Joten, Greg Grunert
Technical Prep/Projection	Tom Richmond, Andy Palmbach
Ushers	Dave Rades, Bill Robarge
Greeters	Beverly Schwahert

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE & HYMN OF PRAISE

Leader: In peace, in peace,

Leader: *Congregation:*

Let us pray — to the Lord, have mer - cy,

Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. _____

Leader: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
For the unity of all... (Refrain)

Leader: For your people here, who have come to give you praise,
For the strength to live your Word... (Refrain)

Leader:

Help, save, and de - fend us, _____ O God.

Congregation:

A - - - - - men.

Refrain - Sung by all

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy to the God of life and love and free - dom:
praise and glo - ry for ev - er - more!_____

High voices

Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose
blood has freed and u - nit - ed us to be
one great peo - ple of God._____ *To refrain*

Low voices

Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and might, all hon - or and
glo - ry to Christ for ev - er._____ *To refrain*

All:

For God has come to dwell with us, to make us
peo - ple of God; to make all things new._____ *To refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God,

C **we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

¹⁵O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. ¹⁶Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand, I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you

are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. ²¹I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

⁹Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and

do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge

yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are

thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Repeat optional*

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-28

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

²¹From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." ²³But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ²⁴Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my

followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? ²⁷"For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW 810

O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

Oh, let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near.

I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.

My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer
to shield my soul from sin.

Oh, let me hear you speaking
in accents clear and still
above the storms of passion,
the murmurs of self-will.
Now speak to reassure me,
to hasten or control;
now speak and make me listen,
O Guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, you have promised
to all who follow you
that where you are in glory
your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
oh, give me grace to follow,
my master and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

APOSTLES CREED

P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH & SHARING THE PEACE

P Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

Petitions end: Merciful God,

Response: **Hear our prayer.**

P Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

P May the peace of Christ be with you.

C **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

What Have We to Offer?



1 What have we to of - fer? What have we to share?
2 What have we to of - fer? What have we to bring?
3 What have we to of - fer? What have we to give?



Coins from the cof - fer, hearts filled with care.
Love, ripe with laugh - ter; hope that we can sing;
Eyes that are wide o - pen; lies that we won't live;



God will not fal - ter; so let us dare
dreams of what we're af - ter; prom - is - es of when.
truth that must be spo - ken; jus - tice some - how.



lay it at the al - tar there.
Lay it at the al - tar then.
Lay it at the al - tar now.



4 What have we to of - fer? What have we to



give? Lives we will live.

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OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty,

C **all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **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:

Congregation:

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It consists of four lines of music. The first line begins with a common time signature (C) and contains the lyrics: "Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly are you, God of pow-er and might;". The second line starts with a 3/8 time signature and contains: "Heav-en and earth are filled with your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the". The third line contains: "high-est! Bless-ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho-". The fourth line contains: "san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!". The score ends with a double bar line.

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly are you, God of pow-er and might;

Heav-en and earth are filled with your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the

high-est! Bless-ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho-

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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 for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

P Jesus' disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us how to pray." He said to them, "When you pray, say":

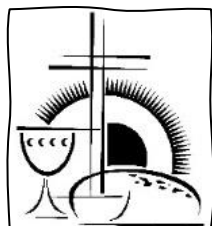
C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

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.**



In the bread and wine, we believe Christ is truly present. Much more than a sign, story, or symbol of God's love, it is an event where God reaches down to us through common earthly elements and invites us into the mystery and miracle of a relationship with him, the Word made flesh for us. All, who have been baptized, are invited to this experience of God's love, where He is our host and we are his guests, who will take the message of his love into the world.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Faith Begins by Letting Go

Faith begins by letting go,
giving up what had seemed sure,
taking risks and pressing on,
though the way feels less secure:

pilgrimage both right and odd,
trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on,
keeping mem'ry's roots alive
so that hope may bear its fruit;
promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
not through merit we possess
but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out,
stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
sharing struggles, living prayer,
binding up the broken parts;
till we find the commonplace
ripe with witness to God's grace.

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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

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

C **Amen.**

P Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINAL BLESSING

P The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C **Amen**

SENDING SONG

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

ELW 767

Lord, take my hand and lead me
upon life's way;
direct, protect, and feed me
from day to day.
Without your grace and favor
I go astray;
so take my hand, O Savior,
and lead the way.

Lord, when the tempest rages,
I need not fear;
for you, the Rock of Ages,
are always near.
Close by your side abiding,
I fear no foe,
for when your hand is guiding,
in peace I go.

Lord, when the shadows lengthen
and night has come,
I know that you will strengthen
my steps toward home,
then nothing can impede me,
O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me
unto the end.

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DISMISSAL

- A Prince of Peace is a family of Christians
C **...growing in faith; reaching out in love.**
A Go in peace. God is at work in you!
C **Thanks be to God!**



FALL Worship Schedule:

Sunday mornings @ 8 & 9:40am

BEGINNING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

Faith Formation kicks off on September 10th at 9:30 a.m.!

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