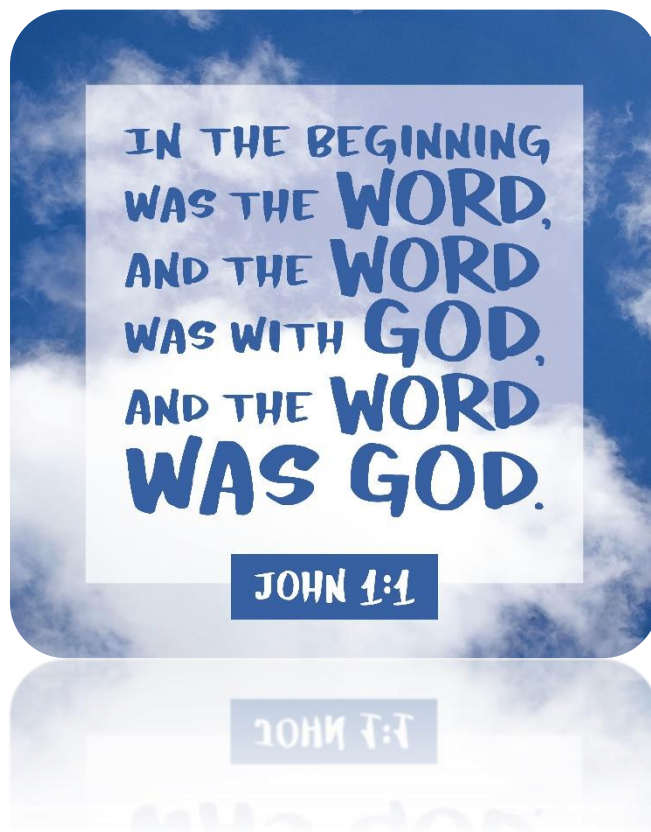


# SIXTEENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST



**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
Appleton, Wisconsin  
September 17, 2023  
8:00 & 9:40 a.m. Services**

#### **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.*


**W**elcome 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!

**W**e 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!

**T**he 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 McQuiston
Assisting Minister	Dave Erickson
Musicians	Colleen Perrine, Karen Bultman Stacie Dobbe, Erik Larson, Beth McQuiston Stu Schrottky, Jeff Sheffler Charlie Sosinski, Michelle Wiesman
Technical Prep/Projection	Tom Richmond (8:00) Peter Juhl; (9:40) Andy Palmbach
Ushers	(8:00) Ron Joten, Bill Robarge (9:40) Jeremy Dobbe, Scott Perrine
Greeters	(8:00) Bev Schwahert, Sharon March

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**GATHERING**  
*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

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ELW denotes the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal  
P—Pastor    A—Assisting Minister    C—Congregation

GATHERING MUSIC

*Farther Along*

Stevens | Baxter

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Leader: Oh, peo-ple of God,            the Lord be    with you. **People:** And may the  
Lord            be with you too. **Leader:** The Spir-it calls            us to re -  
mem - ber. **People:** Oh Lord we lift            our hearts to you.

**All:** We fail to love            you with our whole hearts            or love our  
You bid us come            out from the sha - dows            in - to the

neigh - bors as we should.            And so we're ask - ing for for-  
light by which we see.            Our sins for - giv - en and for-

give-ness.            Oh, set us free            and make us good.  
got - ten            for Je - sus' sake            we're clear and free.

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OPENING SONG

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

ELW 759

My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
take all my guilt away,  
oh, let me from this day  
be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me,  
oh, may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day,  
wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray  
from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,  
when death's cold, sullen stream  
shall o'er me roll;  
blest Savior, then, in love  
fear and distrust remove;  
oh, bear me safe above,  
a ransomed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887

#### GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

P Let us pray.

C **you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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#### WORD

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

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#### FIRST READING

Philippians 2:1-11

*Christ did not act to attain status and glory but was obedient to God even to the point of death. Following Christ's example, we do not seek personal status or glory but care for others as God cared for us in Christ's death.*

<sup>1</sup>So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup>complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing from

selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup>Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the

form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, [a] being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God has

- A Word of God, word of life.
- C **Thanks be to God.**

highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:15-28

*This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.” Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.*

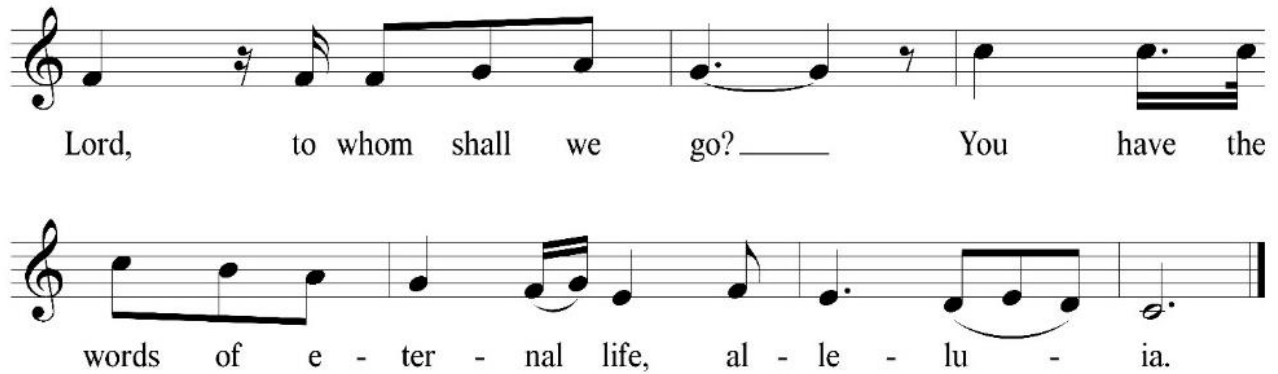
<sup>15</sup>[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; <sup>16</sup>for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. <sup>19</sup>For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup>and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. <sup>21</sup>And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup>he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—<sup>23</sup>provided that you continue securely

established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel. <sup>24</sup>I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh, I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. <sup>25</sup>I became its servant according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup>the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup>To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup>It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

- A Word of God, word of life.
- C **Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





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GOSPEL

John 1:1-18

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

*The prologue to the Gospel of John describes Jesus as the Word of God made flesh, the one who reveals God to be “full of grace and truth.”*

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and

his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Jennifer DeNetz

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Word of God, Come Down on Earth*

ELW 510

Word of God, come down on earth,  
 living rain from heav'n descending;  
 touch our hearts and bring to birth  
 faith and hope and love unending.

Word almighty, we revere you;  
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

Word eternal, throned on high,  
Word that brought to life creation,  
Word that came from heav'n to die,  
    crucified for our salvation,  
saving Word, the world restoring,  
speak to us, your love outpouring.

Word that speaks God's tender love,  
one with God beyond all telling,  
Word that sends us from above  
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,  
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;  
Word of life, with one bread feed us.

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## 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: **Receive 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.*

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## OFFERING

Lord, you are o - ver all of the u - ni - verse. We come be -  
We lift our hands in praise to You, O God. We give our  
fore you with our gifts; \_\_\_ hop - ing you'll ac - cept them. Gifts that  
lives as off - er - ing; \_\_\_ hop - ing you'll ac - cept them. Lives that  
seem so ver - y small \_\_\_ when set be - side the sac - ri - fice \_\_\_ of Your Son.  
seem so ver - y small \_\_\_ when set be - side the maj - es - ty \_\_\_ of Your Son.  
— The great - est gift of all \_\_\_ makes us feel so ver - y small  
— The great - est One of all \_\_\_ makes us feel so ver - y small  
— and yet God still loves us all, \_\_\_ He loves us all! \_\_\_  
— and yet God still loves us all, \_\_\_ He loves us all! \_\_\_

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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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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":

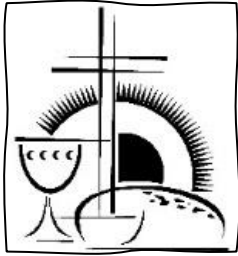
C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**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 sins of the world.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world.

Have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the

sins of the world. Lamb of God, grant us peace.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff is for the first line, the second for the second line, the third for the third line, and the fourth for the fourth line. The music is simple and suitable for a church service.

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## COMMUNION

### *Wonderful Words of Life*

Sing them over again to me,  
Wonderful words of life;  
Let me more of their beauty see,  
Wonderful words of life.  
Words of life and beauty,  
Teach me faith and duty:

CHORUS

Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of life.  
Beautiful words, wonderful words,  
Wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed One, gives to all  
Wonderful words of life;  
Sinner, list to the loving call,  
Wonderful words of life.

All so freely given,  
Woing us to Heaven: CHORUS

Sweetly echo the gospel call,  
Wonderful words of life;  
Offer pardon and peace to all,  
Wonderful words of life.

Jesus, only Savior,  
Sanctify forever: CHORUS

Text & Music: Philip Paul Bliss

*Welcome Table*

We're gonna sit at the welcome table,  
We're gonna sit at the welcome table,  
one o' these days; Alleluia!  
We're gonna sit at the welcome table,  
Gonna sit at the welcome table,  
one o' these days.

Jesus calls us to the table,  
Jesus calls us to the table,  
one o' these days; Alleluia!  
Jesus calls us to the table,  
Gonna sit at the welcome table,  
one o' these days.

There'll be singing at the table!  
There'll be singing at the table,  
one o' these days; Alleluia!  
There'll be singing at the table!  
Gonna sit at the welcome table,  
one o' these days.

Text: African American spiritual

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.**

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SENDING

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

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INSTALLATION OF YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR - BARBARA EKERN

(9:40) INSTALLATION OF YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

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

*Jesus Shall Reign*

ELW 434

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
does its successive journeys run;  
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

To him shall endless prayer be made,  
and praises throng to crown his head;  
his name like sweet perfume shall rise  
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.

People and realms of ev'ry tongue  
dwell on his love with sweetest song;  
and infant voices shall proclaim  
their early blessings on his name.

Blessings abound where'er he reigns:  
the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,  
the weary find eternal rest,  
and all who suffer want are blest.

Let ev'ry creature rise and bring  
peculiar honors to our king;  
angels descend with songs again,  
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

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!**

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