



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
after
PENTECOST

GOD
will
PROVIDE

MATTHEW 6:25-34

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Appleton, Wisconsin
October 1, 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.*


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 McQuiston
Assisting Minister	Greg Knudson
Musicians	Sondra Joten, Greg Grunert Soli Deo Gloria Handbell Choir
Technical Prep/Projection	Tom Richmond
Ushers	(8:00) Peter Juhl; (9:40) Andy Palmbach (8:00) Al Peckham, Tom Scheuerman (9:40) Bill Lempesis, Scott Perrine
Greeters	(8:00) Christina Baranczyk, Brad & Nan Bunnow (9:40) Randi & Madi Busse

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

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

GATHERING MUSIC *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* arr. Jeffrey Honoré

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

BLESSING OF KITS & QUILTS

P Today we dedicate quilts along with baby, personal care, and school supply kits that the Women of the ELCA have collected for others. For more than 100 years the tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings, both ordinary and extraordinary, continues through items collected or lovingly stitched together and sent to support people in our local neighborhoods and around the world. Let us pray.

C **Lord, we give thanks for these gifts and the hands that have made them. We thank you for the leadership and witness of the women of this congregation that has reached out to show your love to so many others, most of whom are unknown to them, but not to you. We dedicate these gifts in your name for our neighbors' good and for the sake of the world. May those who receive these know your deep love for them. Bless these items in your name. Amen**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C **Amen.**

P Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Steadfast and faithful God,

C **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

C **Amen.**

OPENING SONG

When Morning Gilds the Skies

ELW 853

When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awaking cries:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

When mirth for music longs,
this is my song of songs:
may Jesus Christ be praised!
God's holy house of prayer
has none that can compare
with "Jesus Christ be praised!"

No lovelier antiphon
in all high heav'n is known
than "Jesus Christ be praised!"
There to the eternal Word
the eternal psalm is heard:
oh, Jesus Christ be praised!

Let all of humankind
in this their concord find:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let all the earth around
ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Sing, sun and stars of space,
sing, all who see his face,
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"
God's whole creation o'er,
today and evermore
shall Jesus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn, 19th cent.; tr. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.

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 together:

C **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, who in your self-emptying love gathered up and reconciled all creation to the Father. Innumerable galaxies of the heavens worship you. Creatures that grace the earth rejoice in you. All those in the deepest seas bow to you in adoration. As with them we give you praise, grant that we may cherish the earth, our home, and live in harmony with this good creation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

WORD

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

FIRST READING

Genesis 1:26-31

At the beginning of time, God the Creator, God the powerful Word, and God the life-giving Spirit formed the earth and all its inhabitants. God sees that all this created work is good. God creates humans and makes them stewards of creation.

²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." ²⁷So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. ²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over

every living thing that moves upon the earth." ²⁹God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

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

SECOND READING

Romans 8:18-23

The Holy Spirit has made us God's children who eagerly await the glorious future God has prepared for all of creation. While we cannot fully see what God has in store for us and creation, but we eagerly anticipate it in hope.

¹⁸I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ²⁰for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to

decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; ²³and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Gospel Acclamation. Both staves are in the treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff begins with a double bar line and contains the notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Below the notes are the lyrics: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,". The second staff contains the notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4. Below the notes are the lyrics: "al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.".

Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL

Matthew 6:25-34

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

²⁵"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you — you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

Pastor Jennifer DeNetz

HYMN OF THE DAY

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

ELW 684

(Solo) Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.

Sustaining God, your hands uphold
earth's myst'ries known or yet untold;
let water's fragile blend with air,
enabling life, proclaim your care.

Redeeming God, your arms embrace
all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove,
make known on earth your healing love.

Indwelling God, your gospel claims
one fam'ly with a billion names;
let ev'ry life be touched by grace
until we praise you face to face.

Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, b. 1934; Text © 1979 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company.
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AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM FOR NEW MEMBERS

p. 234, front section of ELW

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.

OFFERING

Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring

ELW 691

Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring
to place upon your table.

We do not worship as we ought
but only as we're able.

The vines were planted, seeds were sown.

They grew in your good pleasure.

What once was common, daily food
becomes a holy treasure.

Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares
we lift in prayer before you.

Lord, by your grace now come to us,
as humbly we adore you.

Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, b. 1957; Text © 1990 Augsburg Fortress.
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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

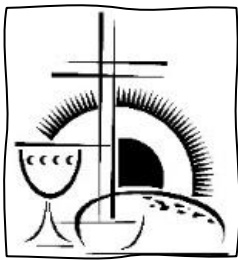
P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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 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

Handbell Meditation:

To the Glory of God

Howard F. Starks

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

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW 836

Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922

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!**



Flowers are given by Dave & Mary Volkman in
honor of their 70th wedding anniversary!
Congratulations!

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