# PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH <br> March 17, 2024 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!

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.

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 to care for little kids in worship. That is why we have several options for parents and caregivers. We also have bags of activities on the wooden kiosk near the entrance by the restrooms that children can grab before entering the sanctuary. Additionally, in the sanctuary, we have a space in the back that we call 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. Another spot for kids to play is in our narthex called the PrayerGround, which is stocked with toys, books, and comfy chairs. There are speakers projecting the service in the narthex, so caregivers can keep track of what's going on in the service and can listen to and/or rejoin worship anytime. 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!

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## GATHERING <br> 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

Forgive Me, Lord

John \& Don Webster

## WELCOME TO WORSHIP

## CONFESSION \& FORGIVENESS



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Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain
"Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"
Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? Refrain
Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. Refrain

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

## 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



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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O Lord God,
C merciful judge, you are he inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

## WORD <br> God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and song.

## FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21
After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.
${ }^{15}$ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ${ }^{16}$ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ${ }^{17}$ Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him.
${ }^{18}$ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ${ }^{19}$ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ${ }^{20}$ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ${ }^{21}$ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

## A Word of God, word of life. <br> C Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING
Romans 14:1-12
This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.
${ }^{1}$ Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ${ }^{2}$ Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ${ }^{3}$ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ${ }^{4}$ Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ${ }^{5}$ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ${ }^{6}$ Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the

Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ${ }^{7}$ We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ${ }^{\text {a }}$ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ${ }^{\circ}$ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ${ }^{10}$ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ${ }^{11}$ For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ${ }^{12}$ So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

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

## LENTEN VERSE



A Slow to an - ger and abound-ing in love_C Lord, to whom shall we go?


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## GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

## C Glory to you, O Lord.

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.
${ }^{21}$ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ${ }^{22}$ Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but I tell you, seventy-seven times. ${ }^{23}$ For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ${ }^{24}$ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ${ }^{25}$ and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ${ }^{26}$ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ${ }^{27}$ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ${ }^{28}$ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred
denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ${ }^{29}$ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ${ }^{30}$ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ${ }^{31}$ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ${ }^{32}$ Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ${ }^{33}$ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ${ }^{34} \mathrm{And}$ in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ${ }^{35}$ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

> P The Gospel of the Lord.
> C Praise to you, O Christ.

Change My Heart, O God
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953; Text ${ }^{\ominus} 1982$ Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services.
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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 \& SIGN OF PEACE

$P$ Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

Petitions end: Hear us, O God, Response: ...your mercy is great.
P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
C Amen.
P The peace of Christ be with you always.
C And also with you.

## MEAL God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

## OFFERING



Colleen Perrine; ${ }^{\ominus} 2016$ WTL. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.

## OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray together...
C Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered, that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. 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 Remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!


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



Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health, Out of my need and into Thy wealth, Out of my sin and into Thyself, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm, Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,

Out of distress to jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come; Into Thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love, Out of despair to raptures above, Upward I rise on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come, Jesus, I come;
Into the joy and light of Thy home, Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold, Into Thy peaceful, sheltering fold, Ever Thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to Thee.
$P \quad$ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C Amen.

P Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.
C Amen.

## SENDING

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

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

Brigetta \& Friends

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## FINAL BLESSING

P Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and $\ddagger$ give you peace.
C Amen.
SENDING SONG

## Where Could / Go?

Living below in this sinful world.
Hardly a comfort can afford.
Striving alone to face the hostile world;
Where could I go but to the Lord?
Where could I go, oh, Where could I go?
Seeking a refuge for my soul.
Needing a friend to help me in the end;
Where could I go but to the Lord?
Living below in this sinful world.
Ev'rything falls into discord.
Striving each day to rise above it all-
Where could I go, oh, where could I go?
Seeking a refuge for my soul.
Needing a friend to help me in the end, Where could I go but to the Lord?
Living below in this sinful world.
Looking ahead to my reward.
Needing the strength to finish the race-
Where could I go but to the Lord?
Where could I go, oh, where could I go?
Seeking a refuge for my soul.

Are You Washed in the Blood?

WORSHIP LEADERS \& VOLUNTEERS
Preaching Minister: Pastor Roger McQuistion
Presiding Minister: Pastor Jennifer DeNetz
Assisting Minister: Pete MillerMusicians:
Colleen Perrine, Christina Baranzcyk, Karen Bultman
Janice Evers, Erik Larson, Beth McQuistion, Laurie RowinskyStu Schrottky, Jeff Sheffler, Michelle Wiesman
Technical Prep/AV: Tom Richmond; (8:00) Peter Juhl; (9:40) Andy Palmbach
Greeters:(9:40) Christine Pynnonen, Gene Begalske

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> Please help us beautify the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, March 31,2024, by donating spring flowers! We have pre-ordered the flowers. You'll find each flower type has a fixed number to choose from. Order early to make sure you get the type of flower you want!
> The order form is available on the website as well as other social media put out by PoP. On that form you may make a flower selection, choose your payment method, and then, submit the form. You will see payment options once you make a flower selection. Note that you have the option to indicate if your flower offering is "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone or is placed "to the Glory of the Risen Lord" for example.

If you do NOT wish to pay electronically, please select the "Pay Later" option to pay by cash or check. If paying by cash, please put in an envelope and write "Easter Flowers" on the envelope. If paying by check, please make payable to "Prince of Peace Lutheran Church" and write "Easter Flowers" on the memo line. Payment can be placed in the drop box at the Welcome Window, given to staff in the church office, mailed at 2330 E . Calumet Street, Appleton, WI 54915 or placed in the Finance mailbox, NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, MARCH 24.
ONLINE order form submissions are due by SUNDAY, MARCH 24. The form submission feature will not be available after that date. As mentioned above, if you are paying by cash or check, you have until SUNDAY, MARCH 24 to provide your payment.

Plan ahead:
HOLY WEEK SERVICES
PALM/PASSION SuNDAY - March 24 (8 \& 9:40 a.m.)
Maundy Thursday - March 28 (6:15 p.m.)
GOOD FRIDAY - March 29 (6:15 p.m.)
Festival of Easter - March 31 (8 \& 9:40 a.m.)


Midweek Lenten services began on February 21 at 6:15 p.m. The theme for this year: "Roll Down Like Justice..."
". . . But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream..."
—Amos 5:24—
Through the prophet Amos, we hear our call to do justice. We also hear that call through our baptism. In baptism, we were brought into a covenantal relationship with Jesus Christ that calls us to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

## How Can we live out this call?

During our Lenten midweeks, we will explore our call to work for justice and peace in our community and in the world as follows:

THIS WEEK: March 20 — Service of Healing

## COME EARLY!

The PoP Women of the ELCA will again this year be offering suppers prior to the midweek Lenten worship services February 21 - March 20, beginning at $5: 15 \mathrm{pm}$ in the Fellowship Hall.
We hope you will be able to join us for food and fellowship this Lenten season!


[^0]:    A hearing loop system is installed in our sanctuary. Those with hearing aid devices may activate their T-Coil technology.

[^1]:    ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: Permission to reprint, podcast and/or stream scripture (New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright ${ }^{\ominus}$ 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America/Revised Common Lectionary) and worship texts obtained under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License \#SAS000711 © 2024.

